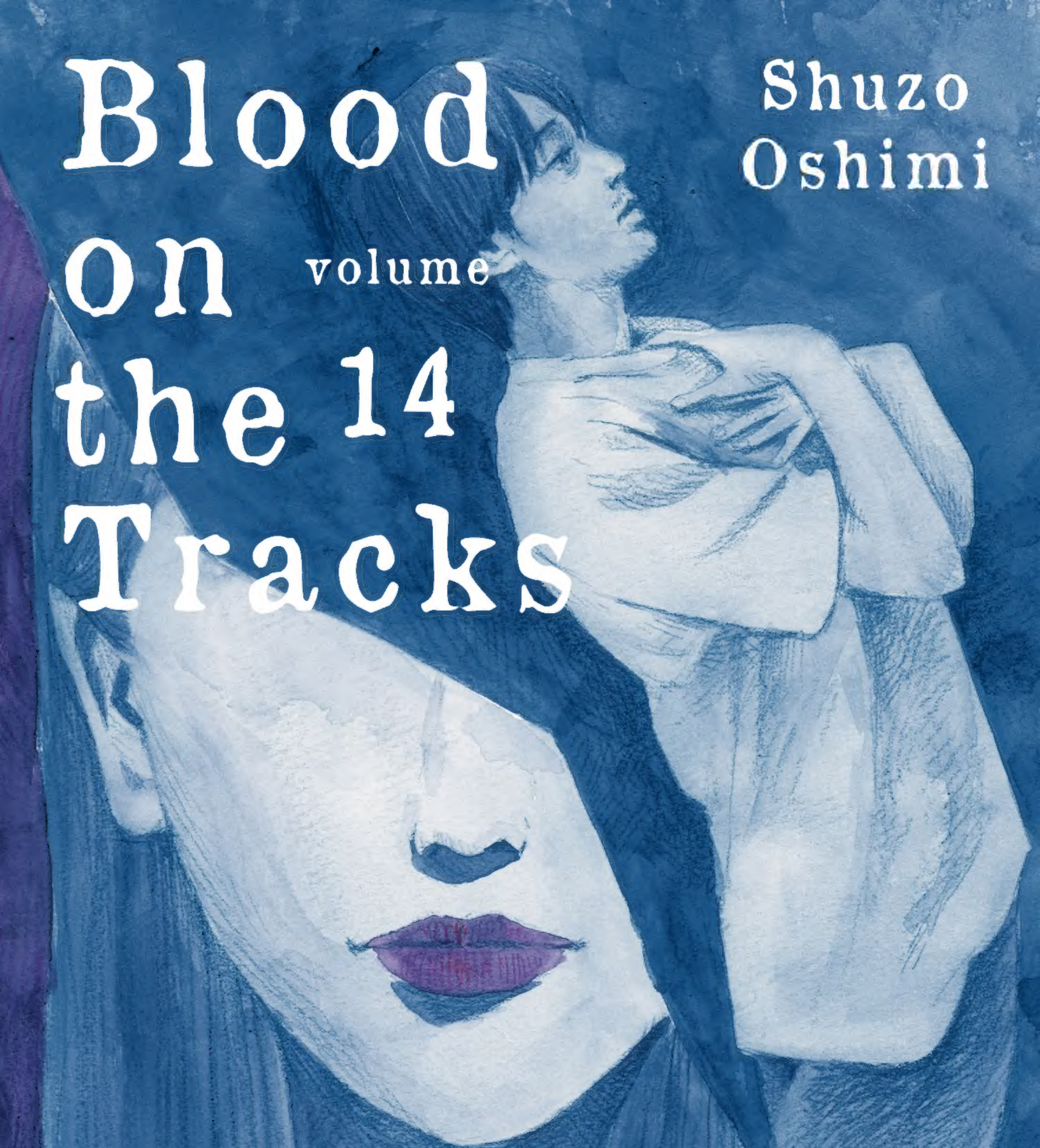
Blood on the 14 Tracks

volume

Shuzo Oshimi



Blood on the Tracks

volume 14

Shuzo Oshimi

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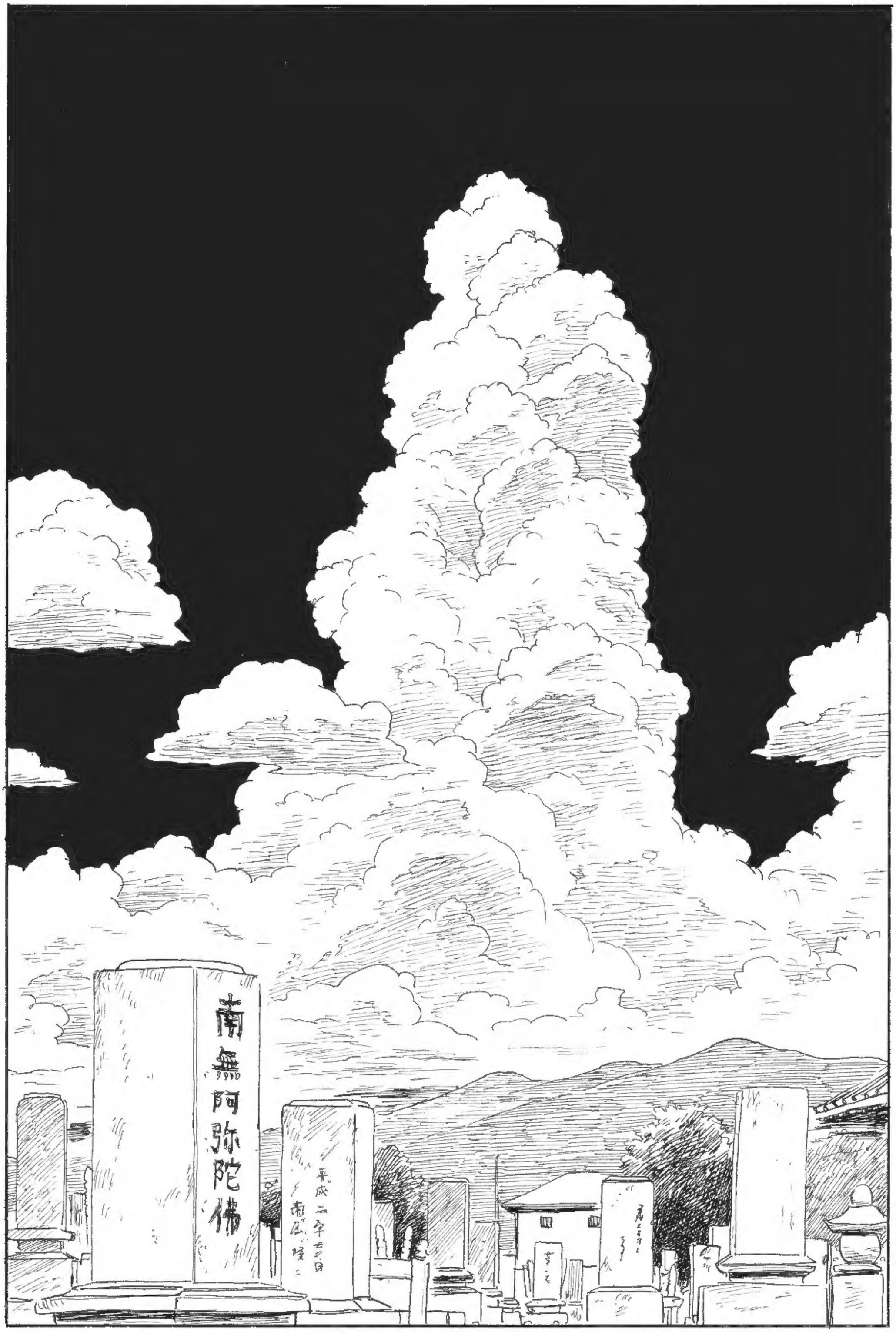
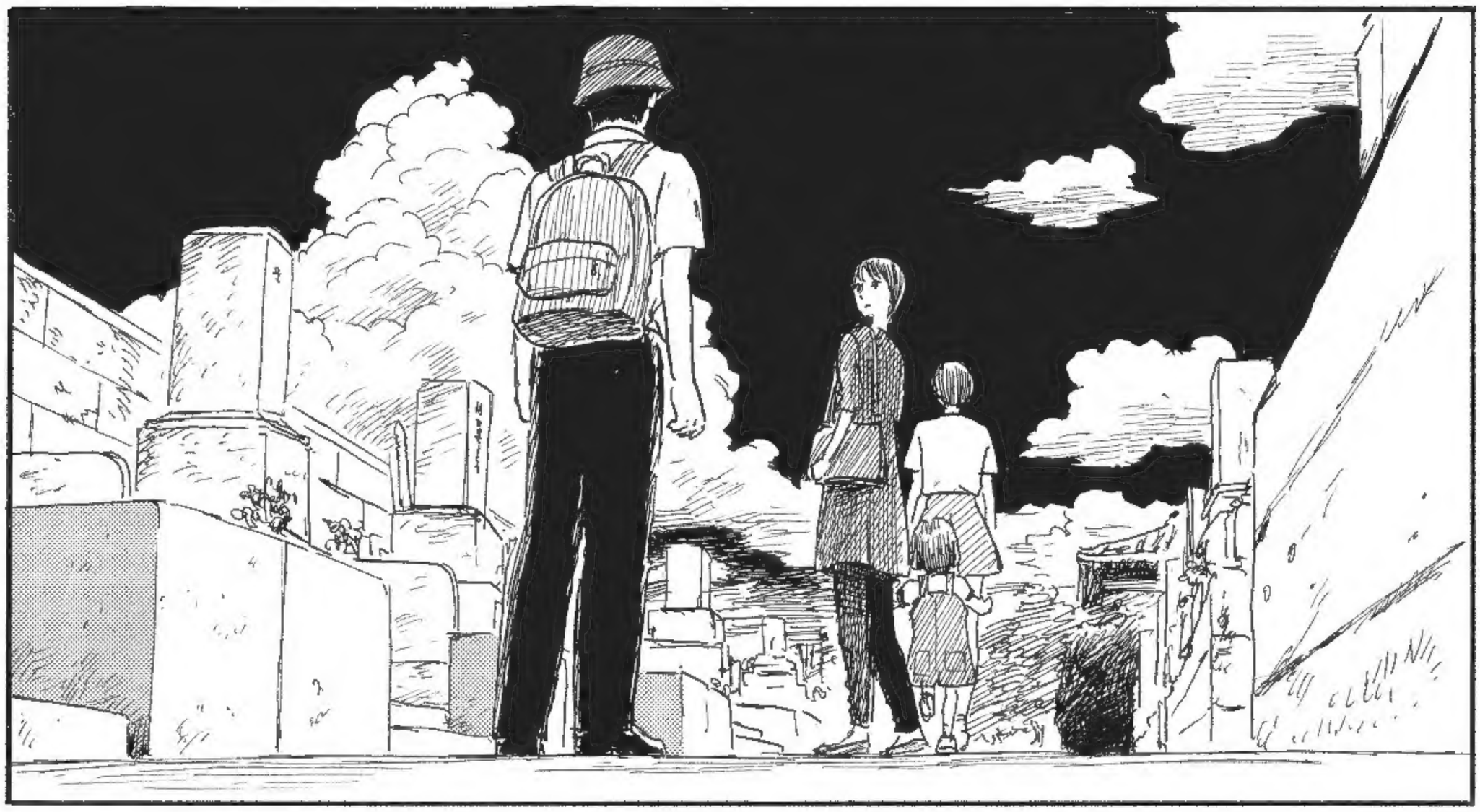
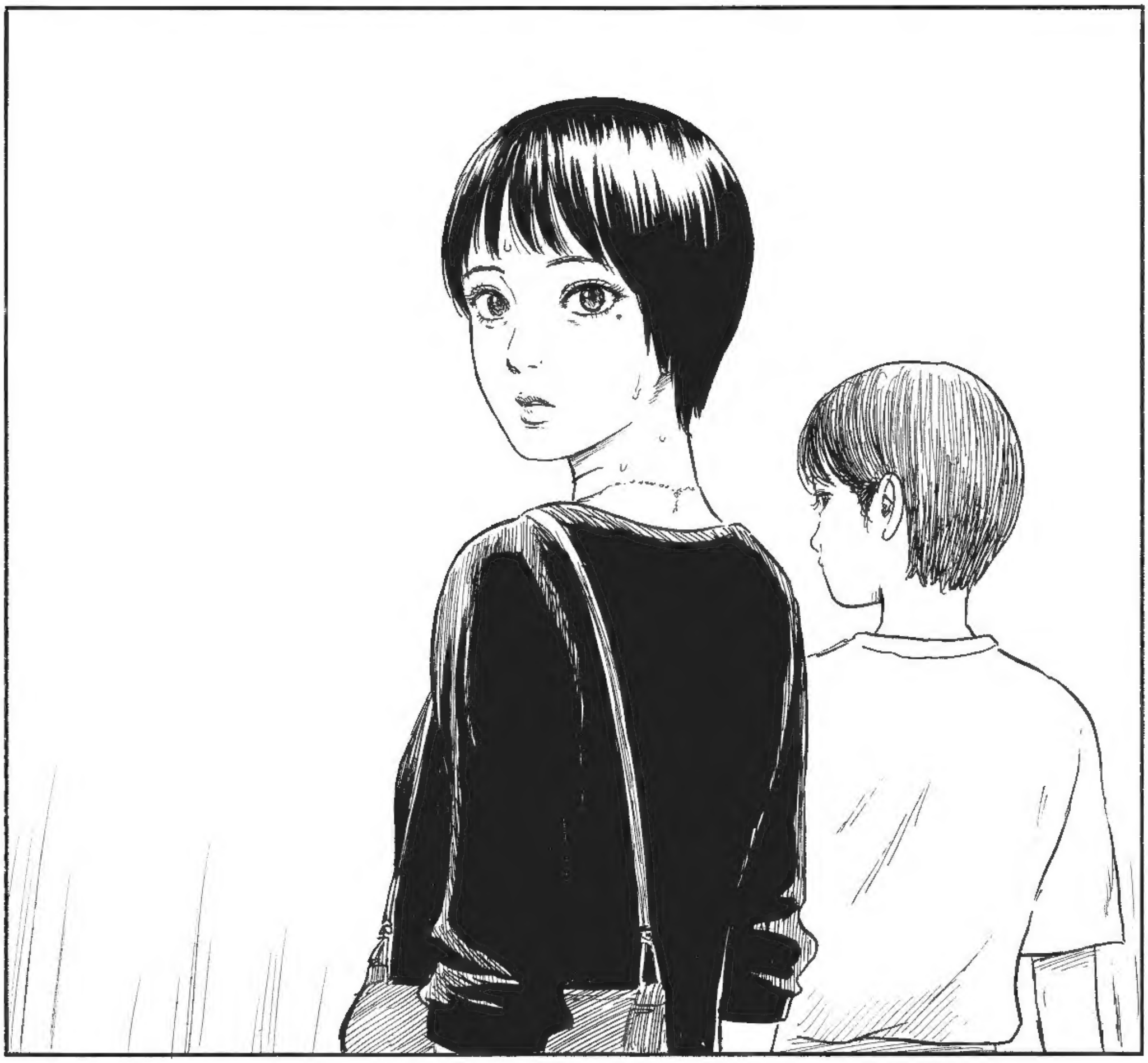
WARNING: This volume contains references to suicide. If you or someone you know has suicidal thoughts or feelings, you are not alone, and there is free, 24/7 help.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline offers confidential support for those in crisis or emotional distress. You can call 988 or go to 988lifeline.org for free, 24/7 help.



* The grave in the foreground reads "Namu Amida Butsu," a standard plea for salvation addressed to the buddha Amitabha.





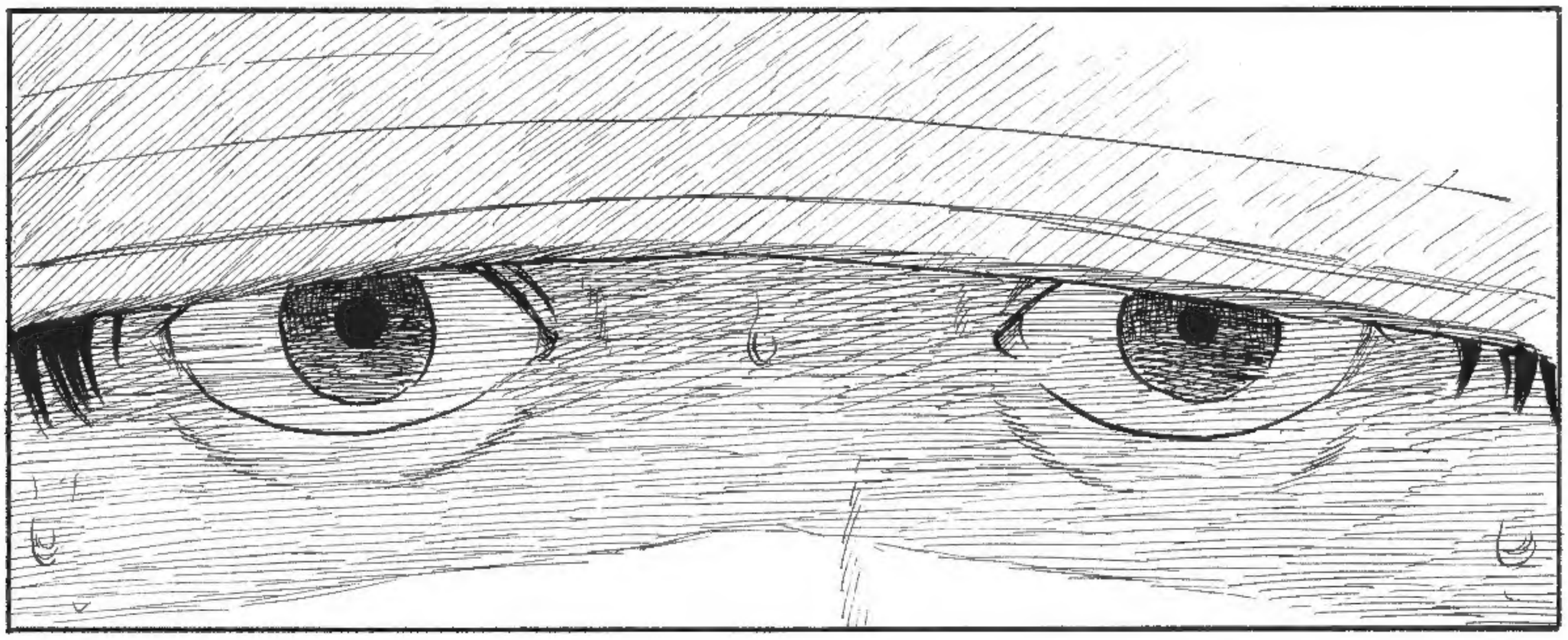
WHAT'S WRONG?

MOMMY,

HAVE WE... MET SOMEWHERE ...?
LIM...

I CAN'T QUITE... REMEMBER...

I'M SORRY...



I DON'T THINK WE HAVE.

NO...

OH...

EX...CUSE ME...

南無阿弥陀佛

水口家之墓

* Namu Amida Butsu

* Mizuguchi family grave

YOUR DAUGHTER?

IS THIS...

UH HUH...

JUST LIKE HER MOTHER.

SHE LOOKS

WE...

GET THAT A LOT.

SOMEONE'S GRAVE?

...ARE YOU VISITING...

...I BROUGHT MY FATHER'S ASHES...

...I SEE.

MOMMY!

LET'S GOOO!

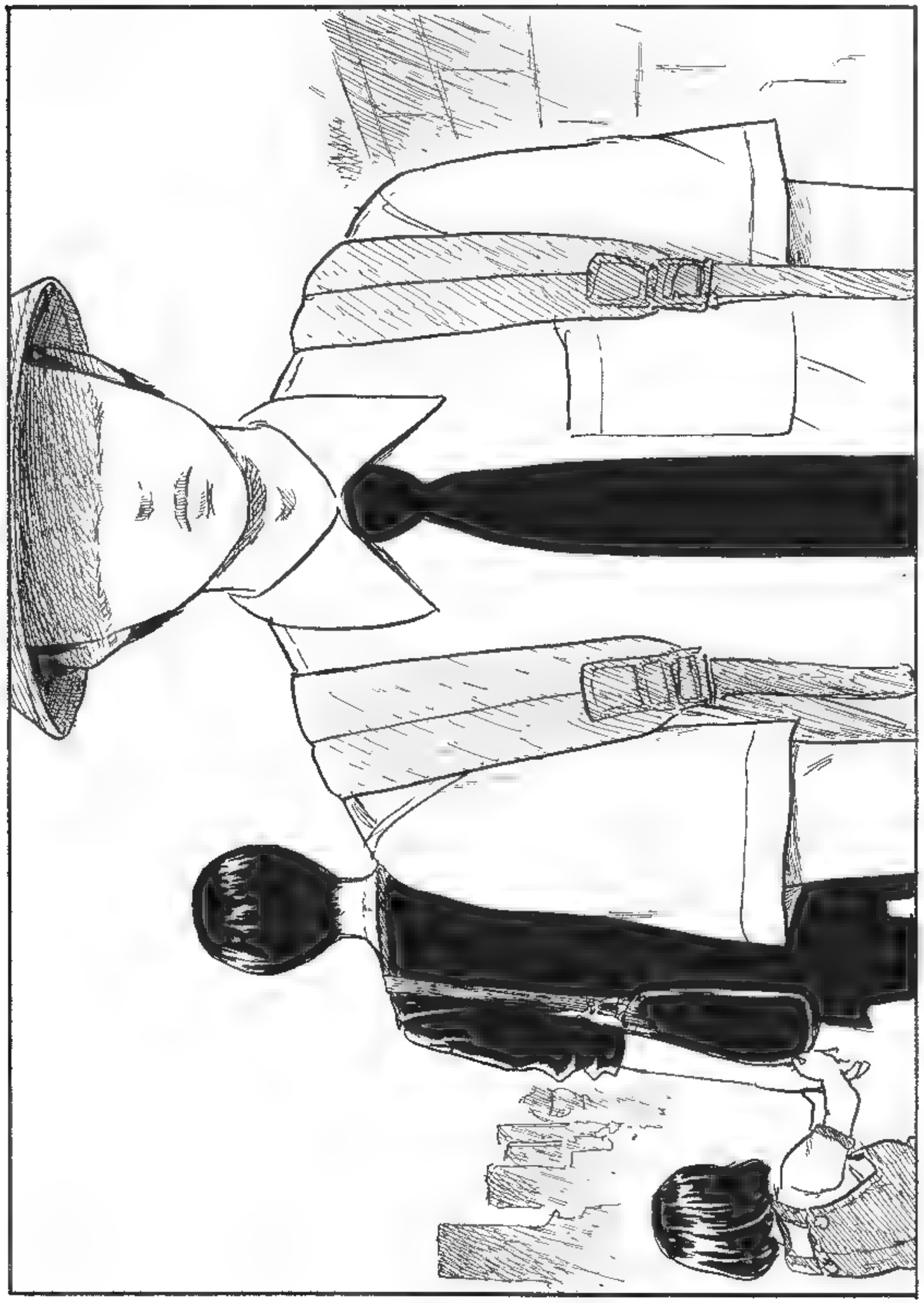
RIGHT.

OH...

I'LL BE ON MY WAY.

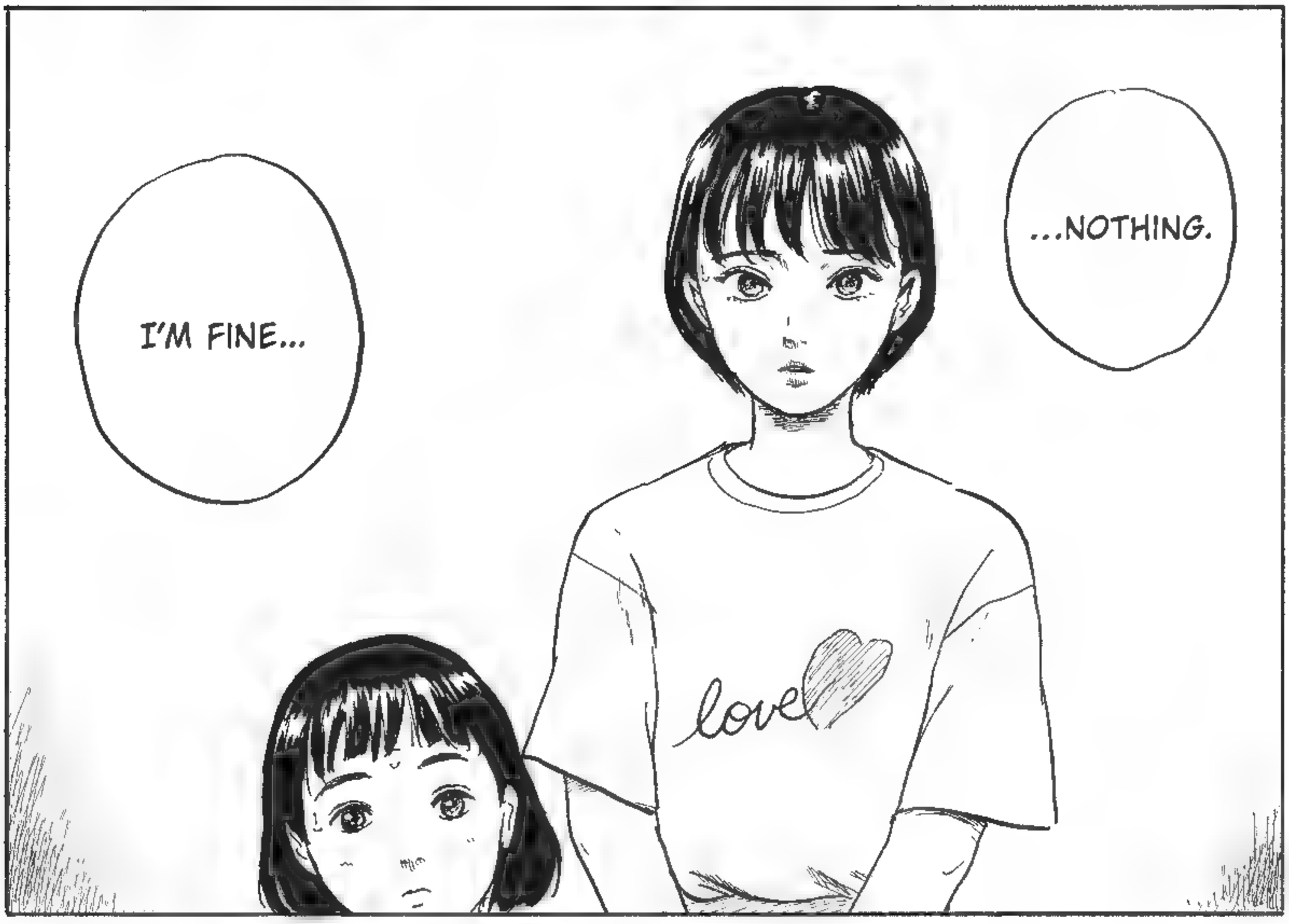
WELL THEN,

OSABE?



MOMMY ?

WHAT'S WRONG ?


I'M FINE...
...NOTHING.
love

...
LET'S GO.

DADDY'S WAITING.

*Shin-Kiryu Station

Goodbye.

to keep me here.

Now there's nothing left

Before I change my mind.

I'll go as soon as I get back.

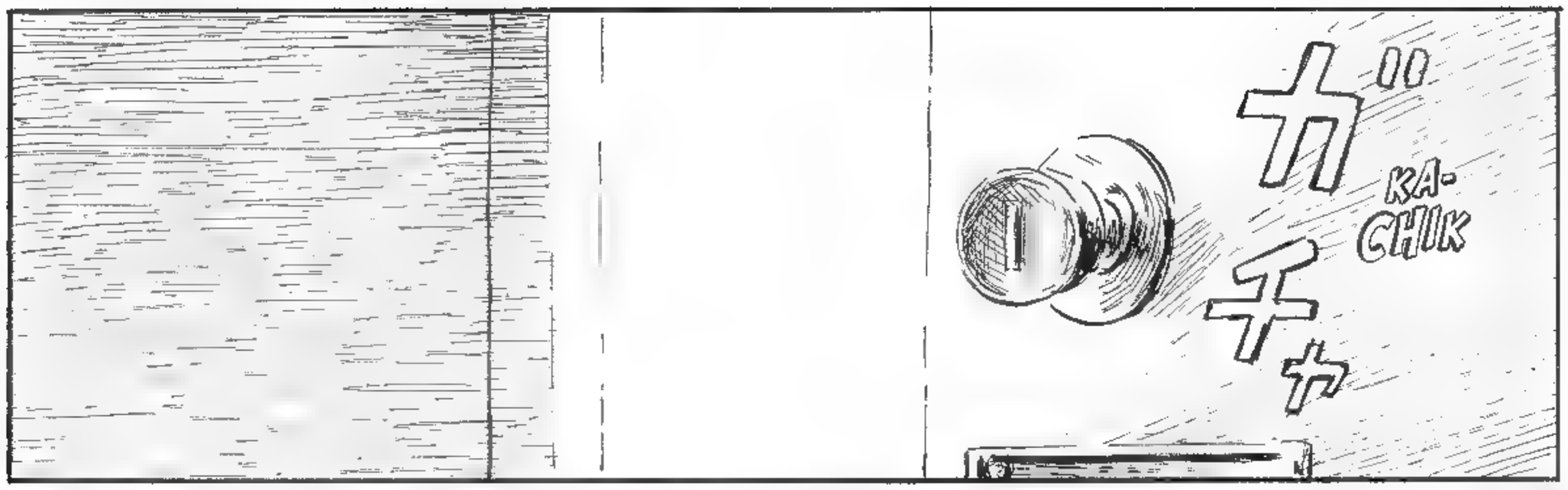
I'll disappear.

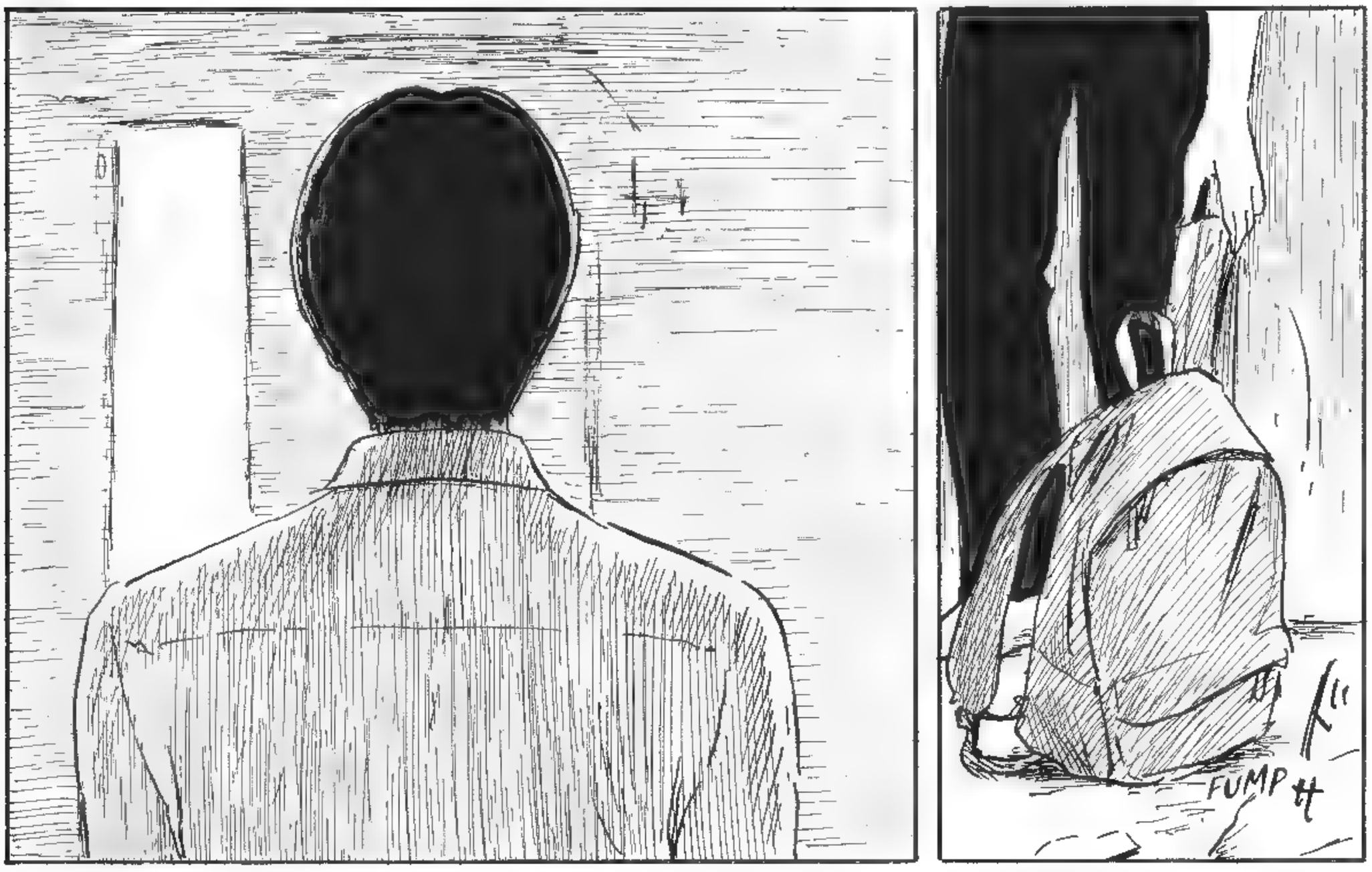
From this world.

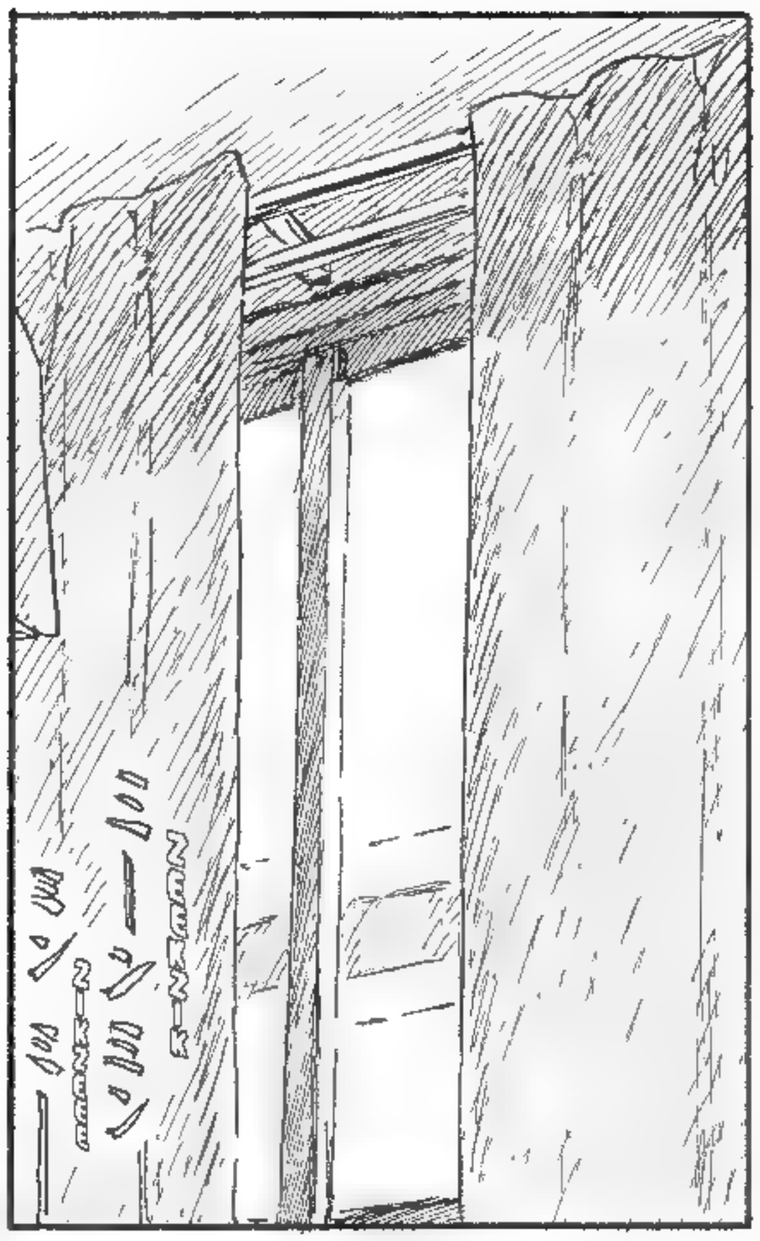
I need to hurry.

Just like that.

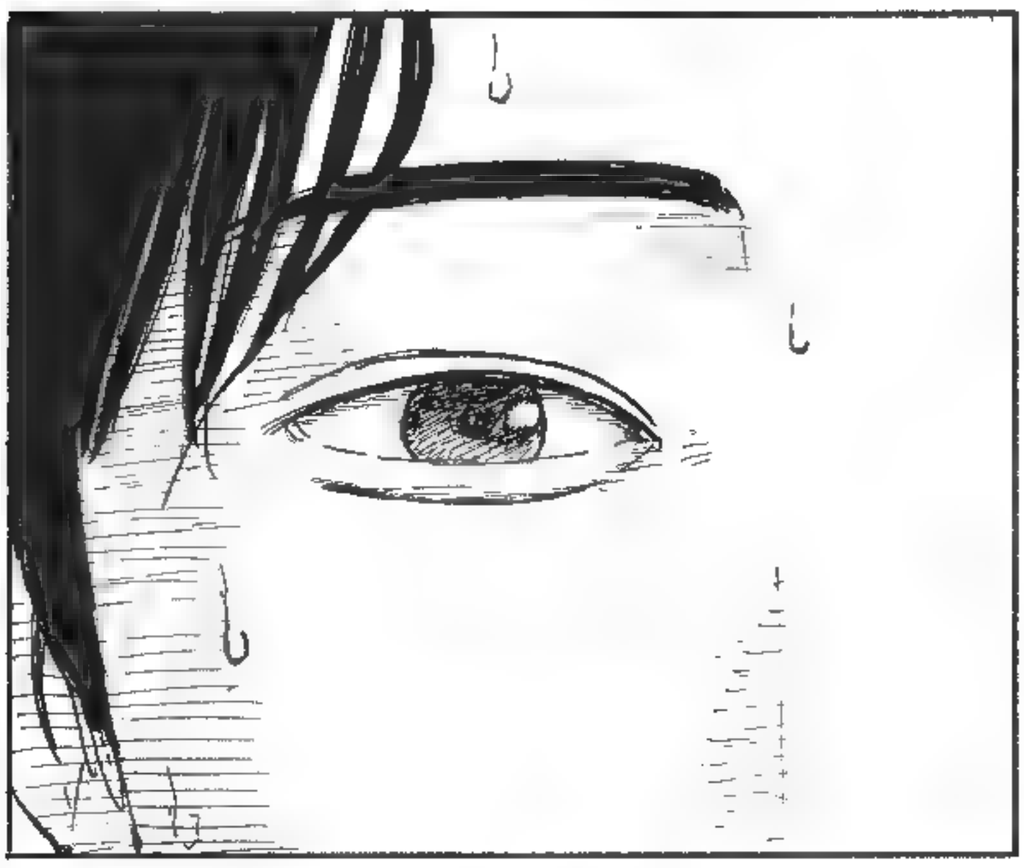
I need to hurry.

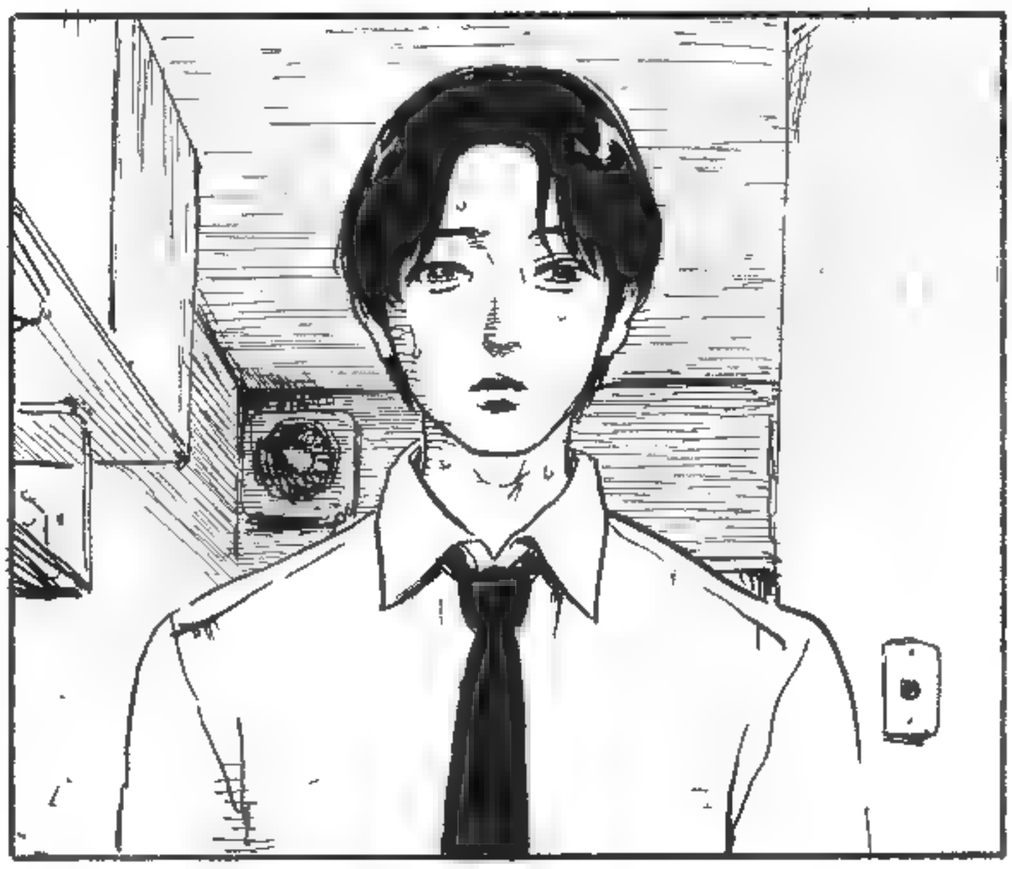

KA-
CHIK

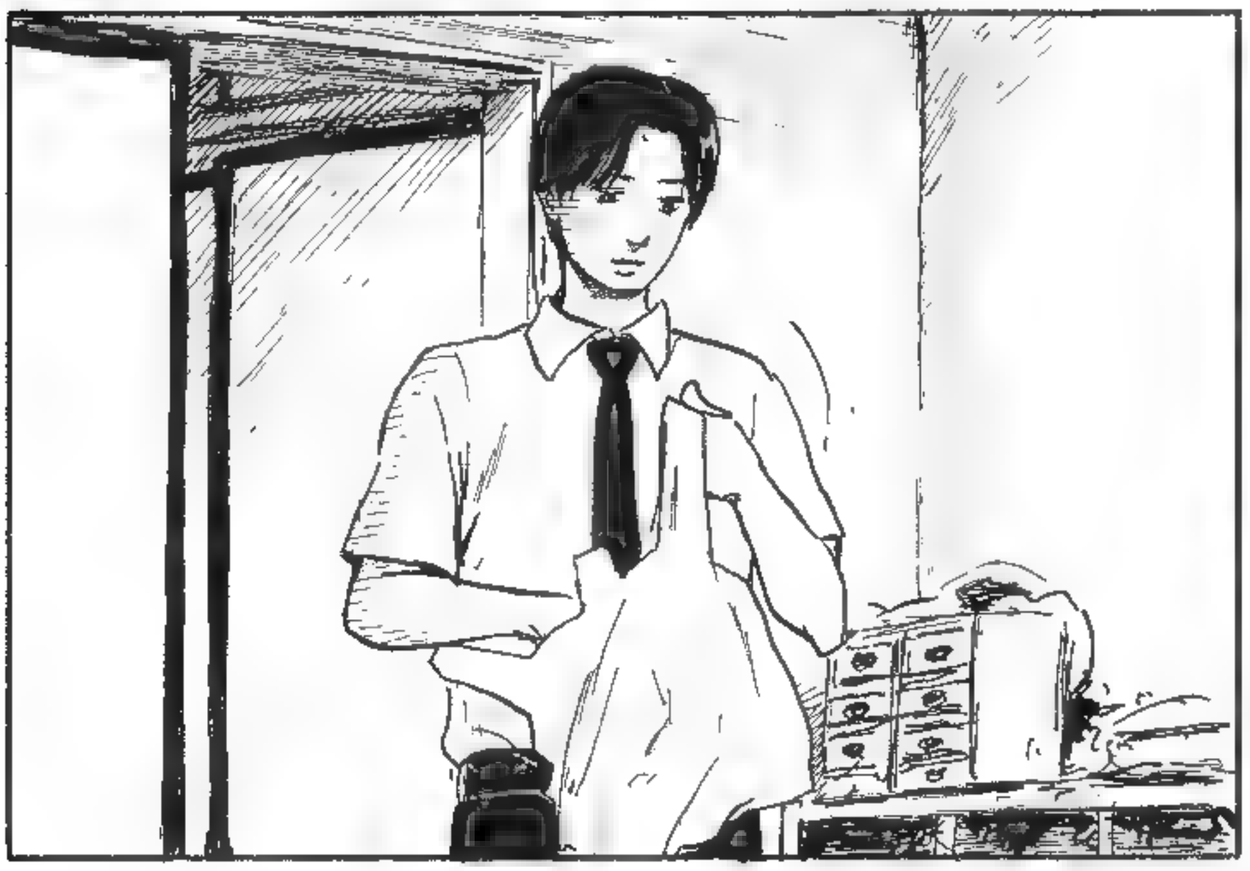

FUMP

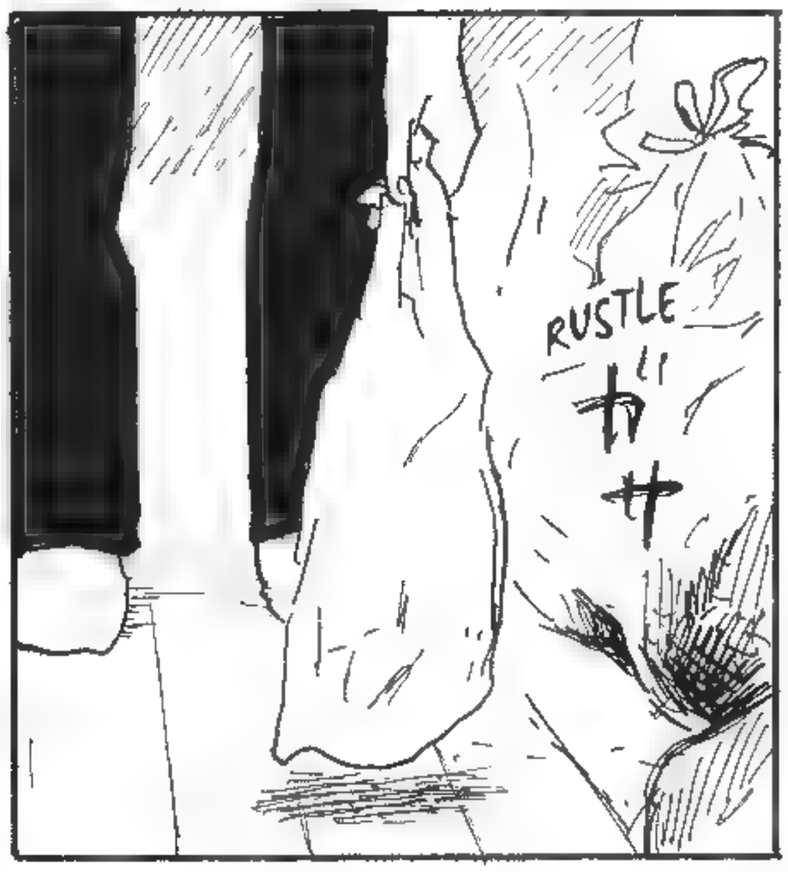

MONDAY
NIGHT

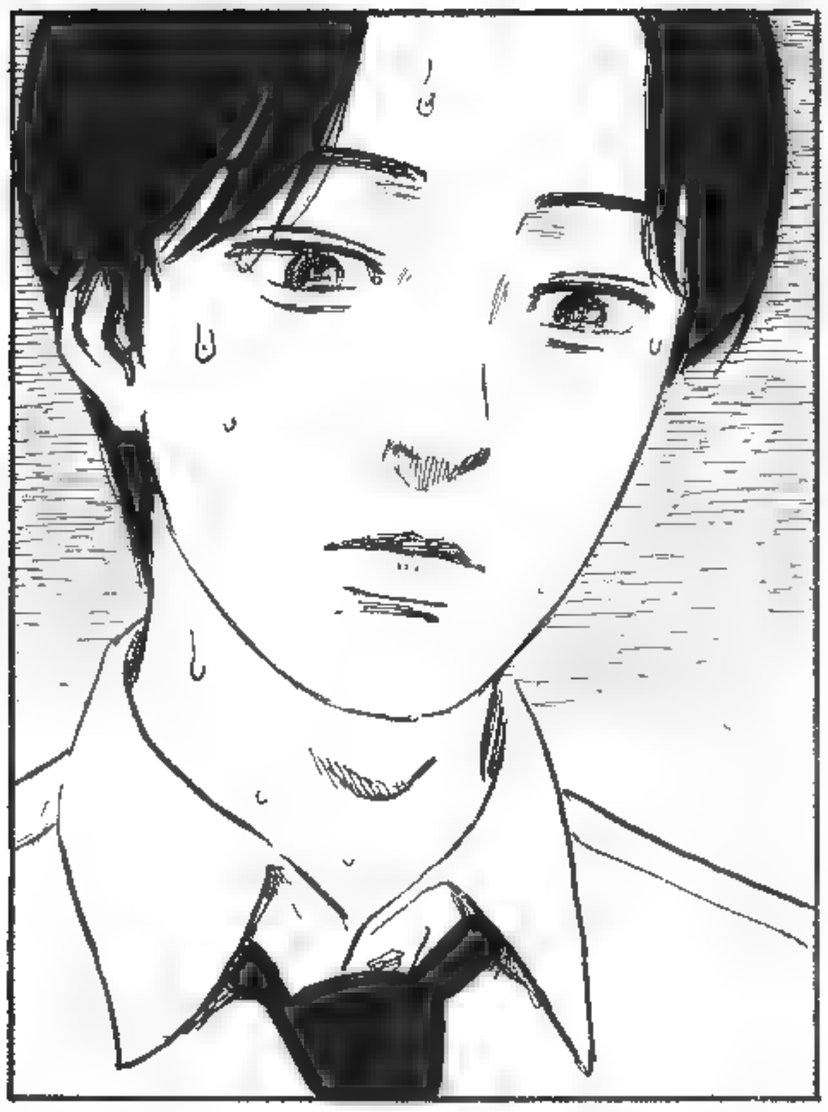
MONDAY
NIGHT



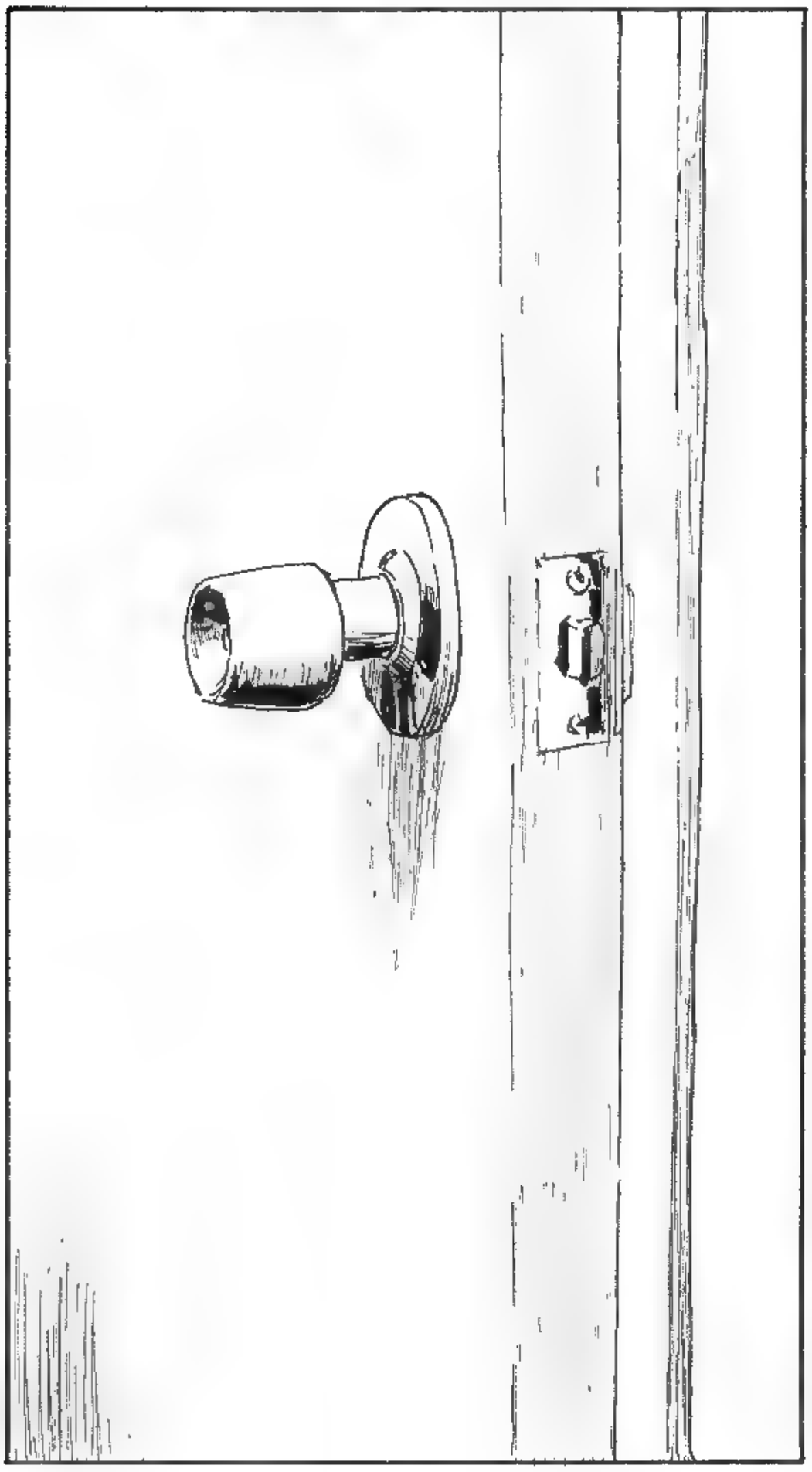


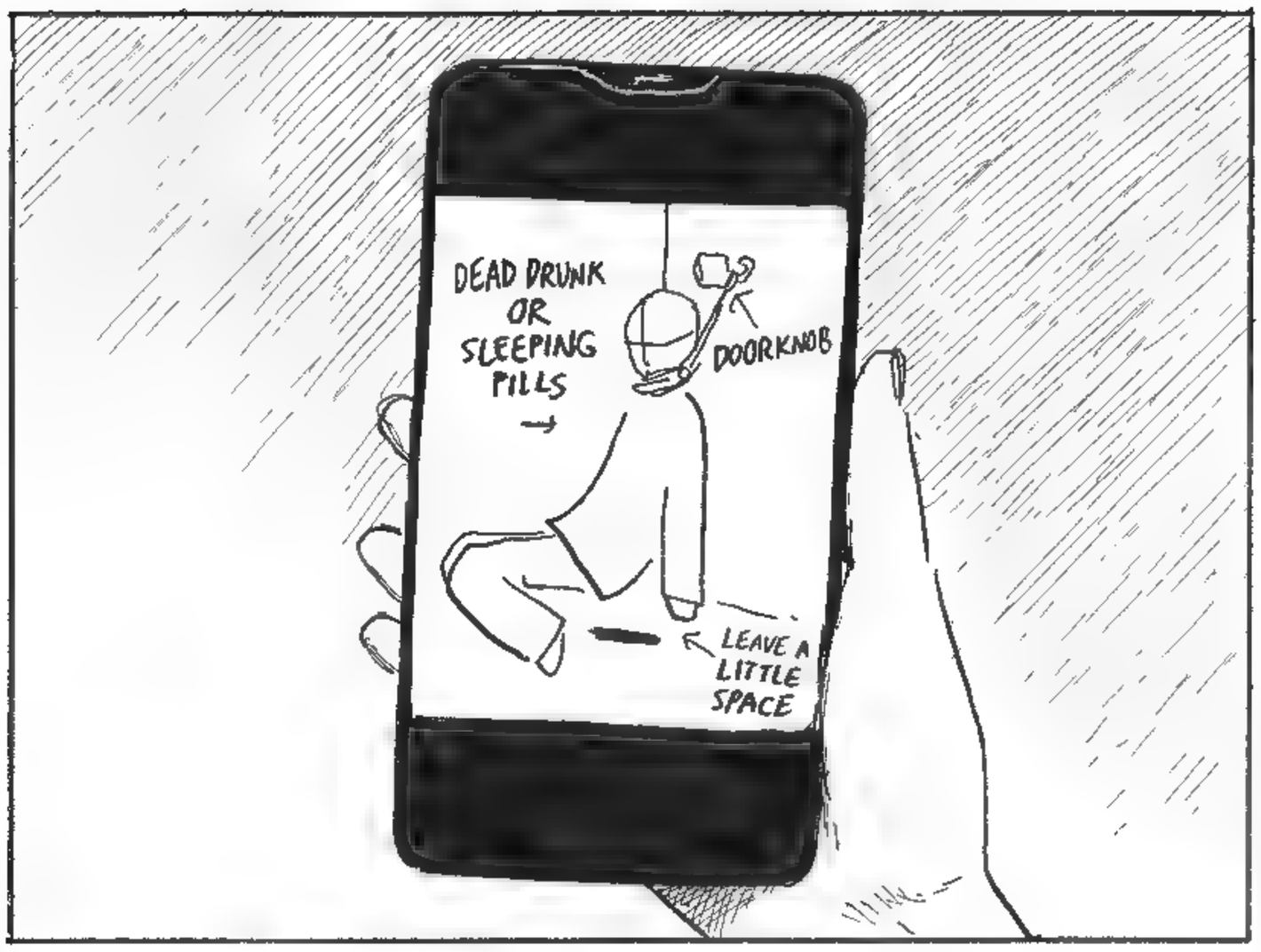


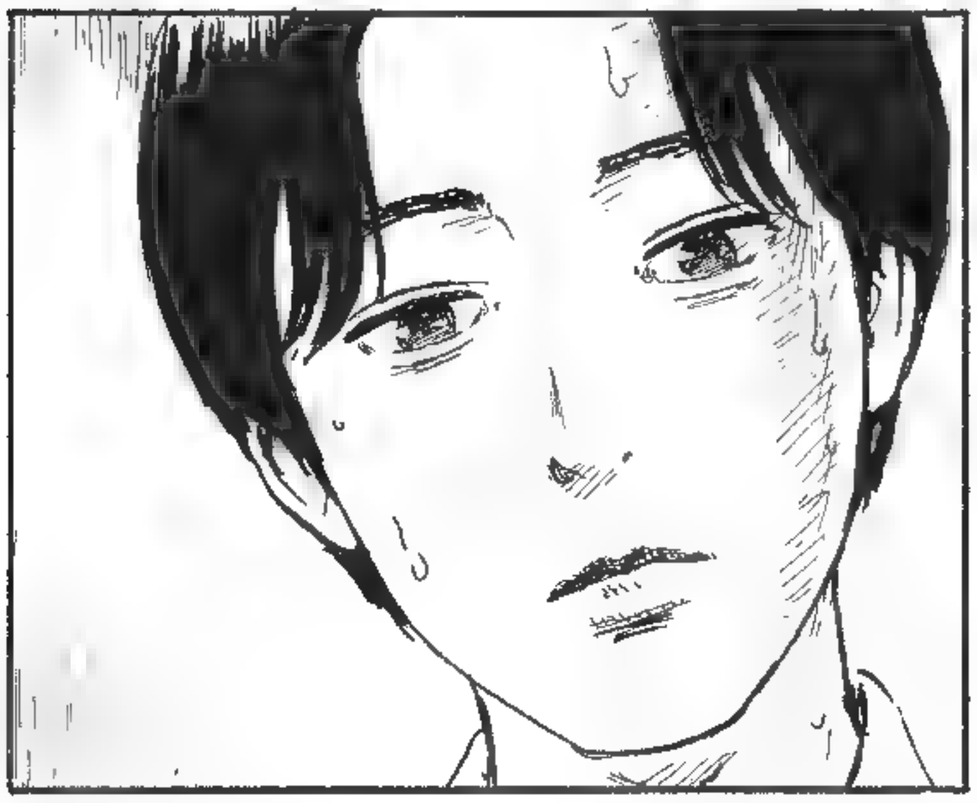

RUSTLE

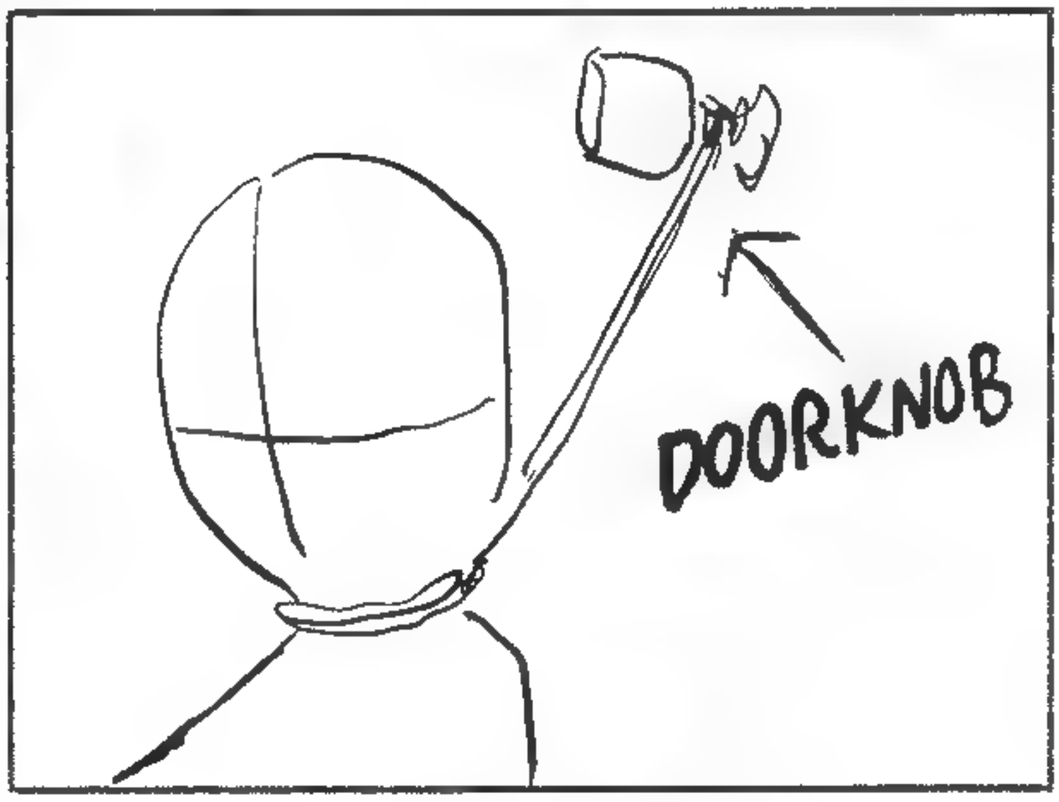


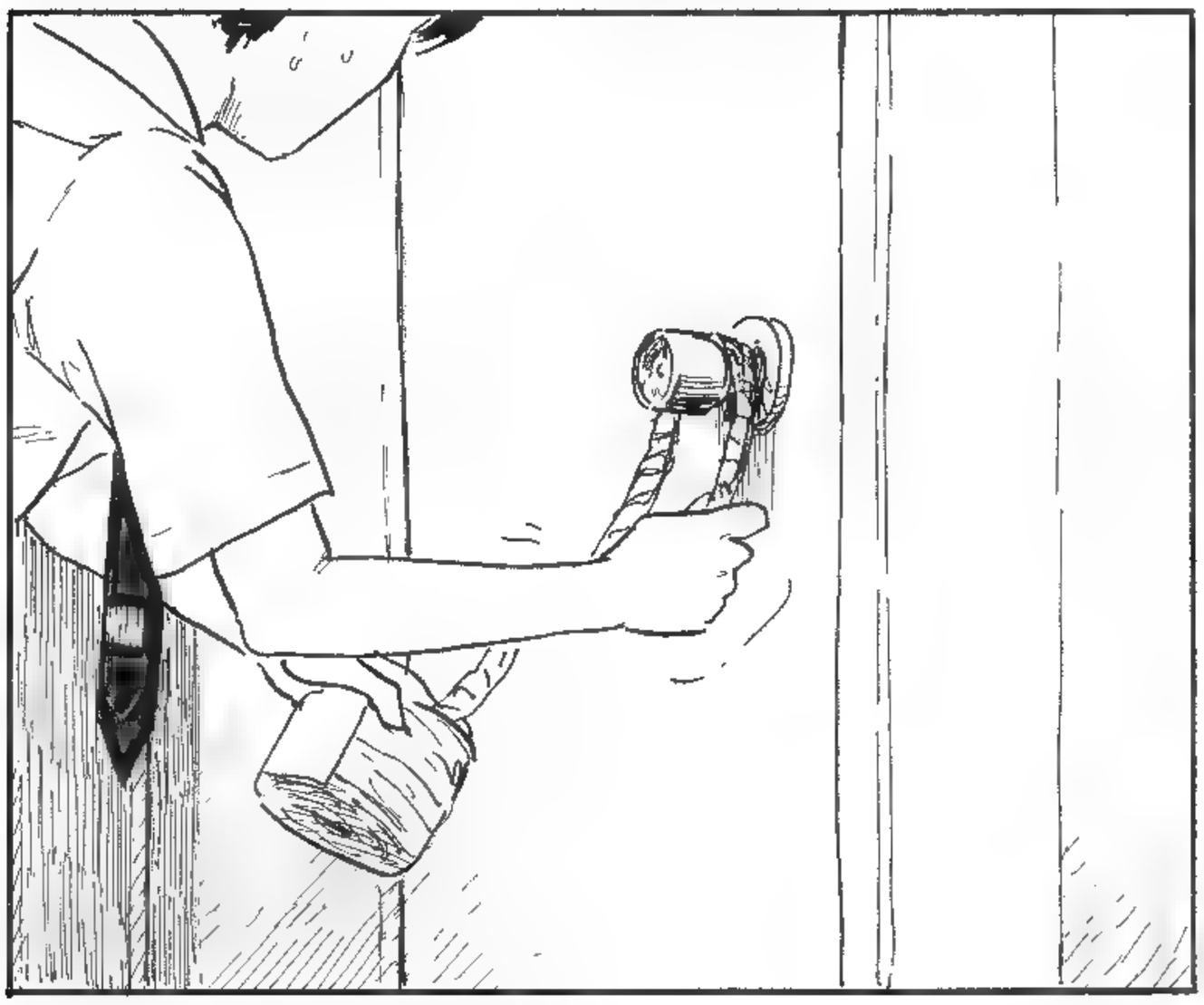
LIFEPAX
POLYESTER ROPE
POLYESTER ROPE PACK

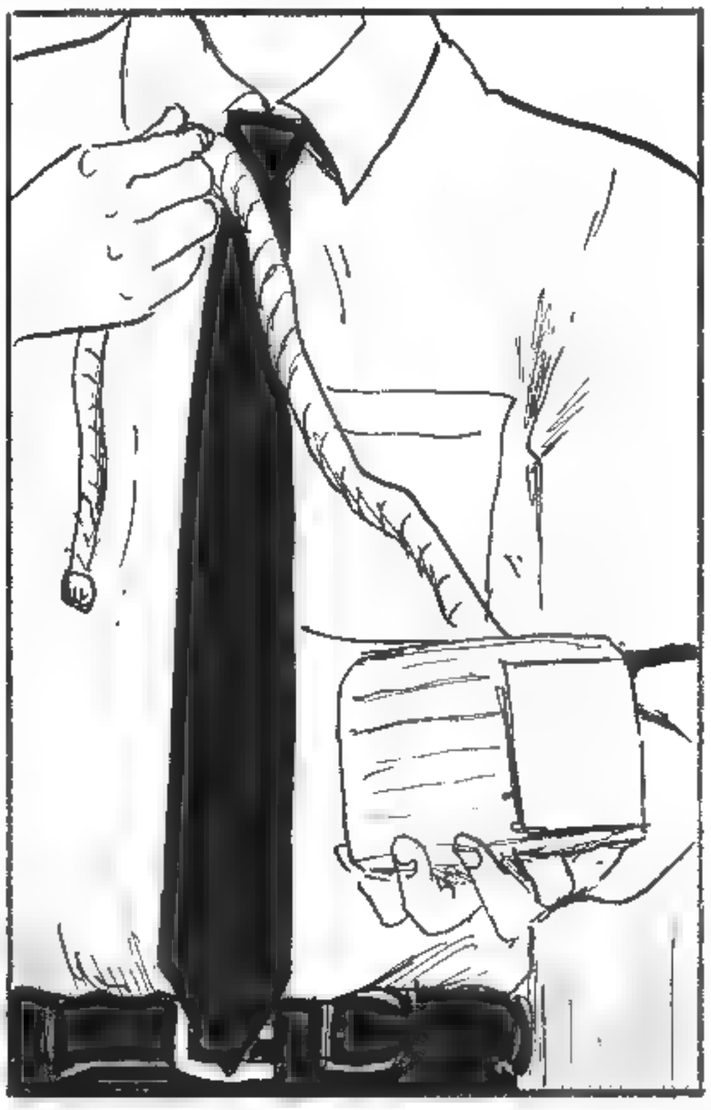



DEAD DRUNK OR SLEEPING PILLS
DOORKNOB
LEAVE A LITTLE SPACE




DOORKNOB





GRK

...OKAY.

とた
TUP

とた
TUP

SLAM

KREE

KA-CHIK

KA-CHIK

SLAM

PSH
プシュ

STRO ZERO
ALC 9%
コン
TONK

HFFF...

GULP
ゴク
GULP
ゴク
GULP
ゴク

DUM
DUM
DUM
DEE
DA
DEE

DA
DEE
DEE

DUM
DA
DEE
DEE
DUM
DEE
DEE
DA
LET'S ALL GO HOME HAND IN HAND,
HOME WHERE WE BELONG...
DA
DEE
DUM
DUM

...YEAH.

...DEE DA

ALL THIS TIME.

SORRY I KEPT ON LIVING

...YEAH. IT'S TIME.

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT...

I CAN FINALLY DIE.

I SURE AM GLAD

GULP

GULP

GULP

IRON

IGA

TA-TINK

TUMP
TUMP

HFF...

HFF

HFF

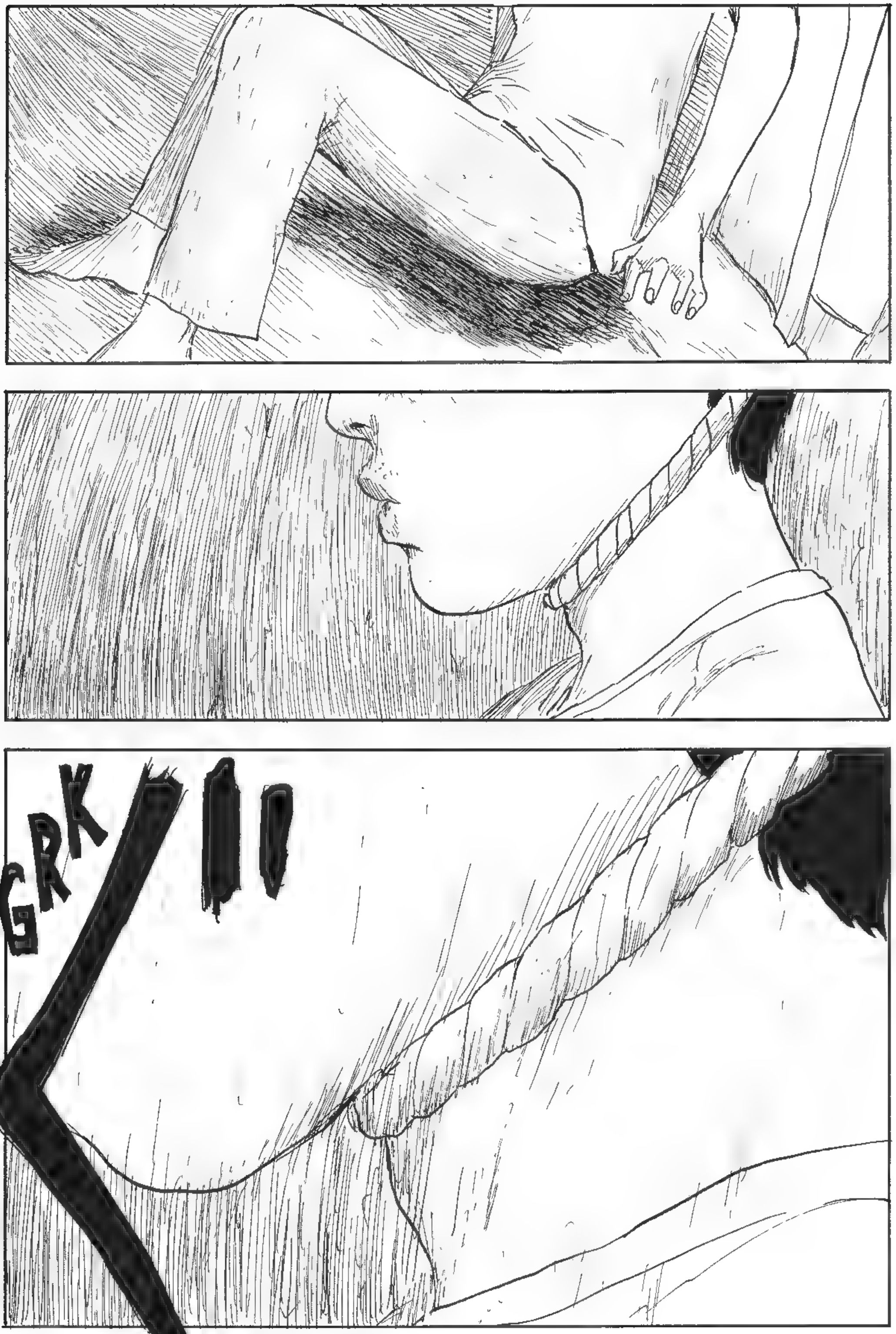
HFF...

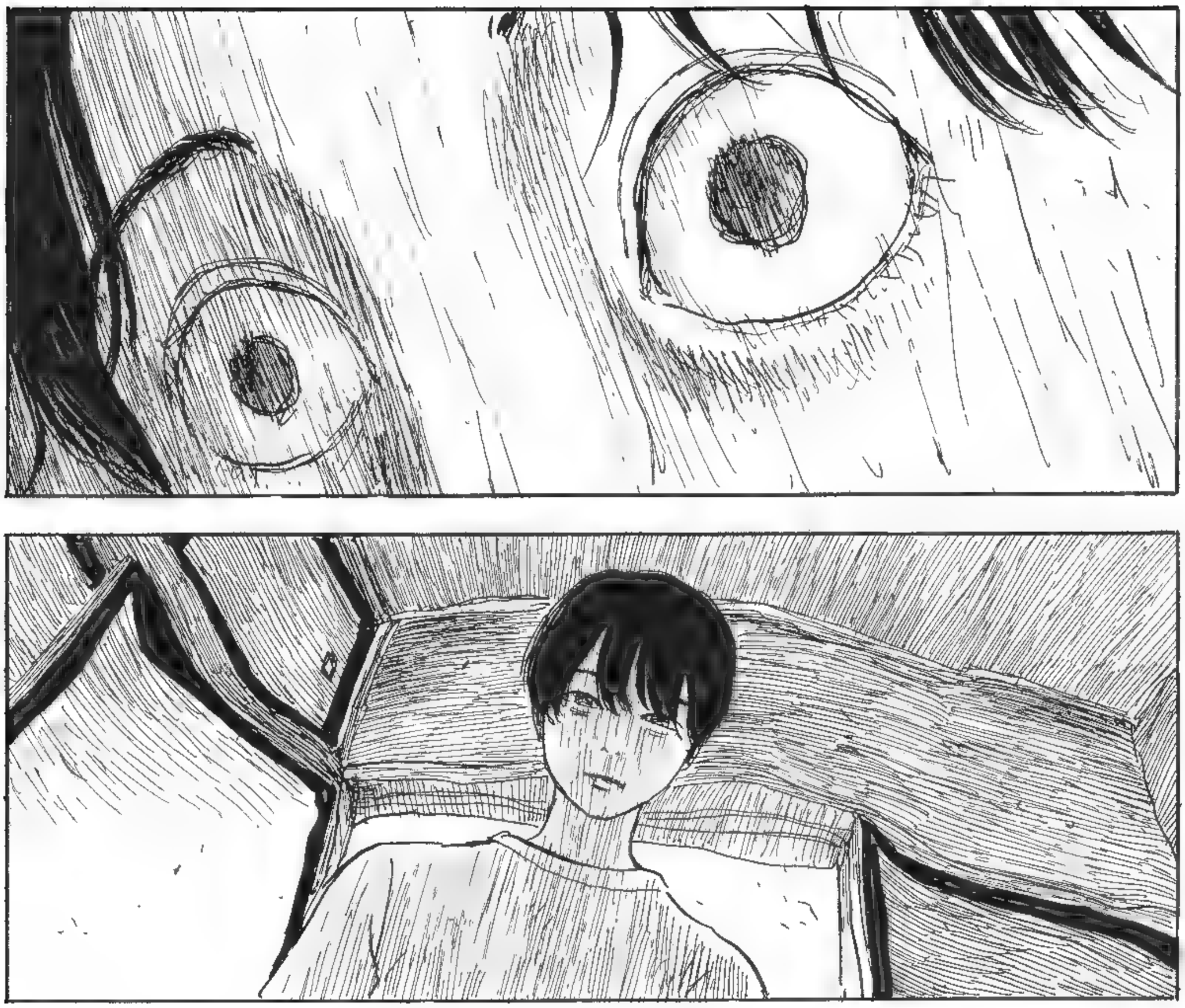
HFF...

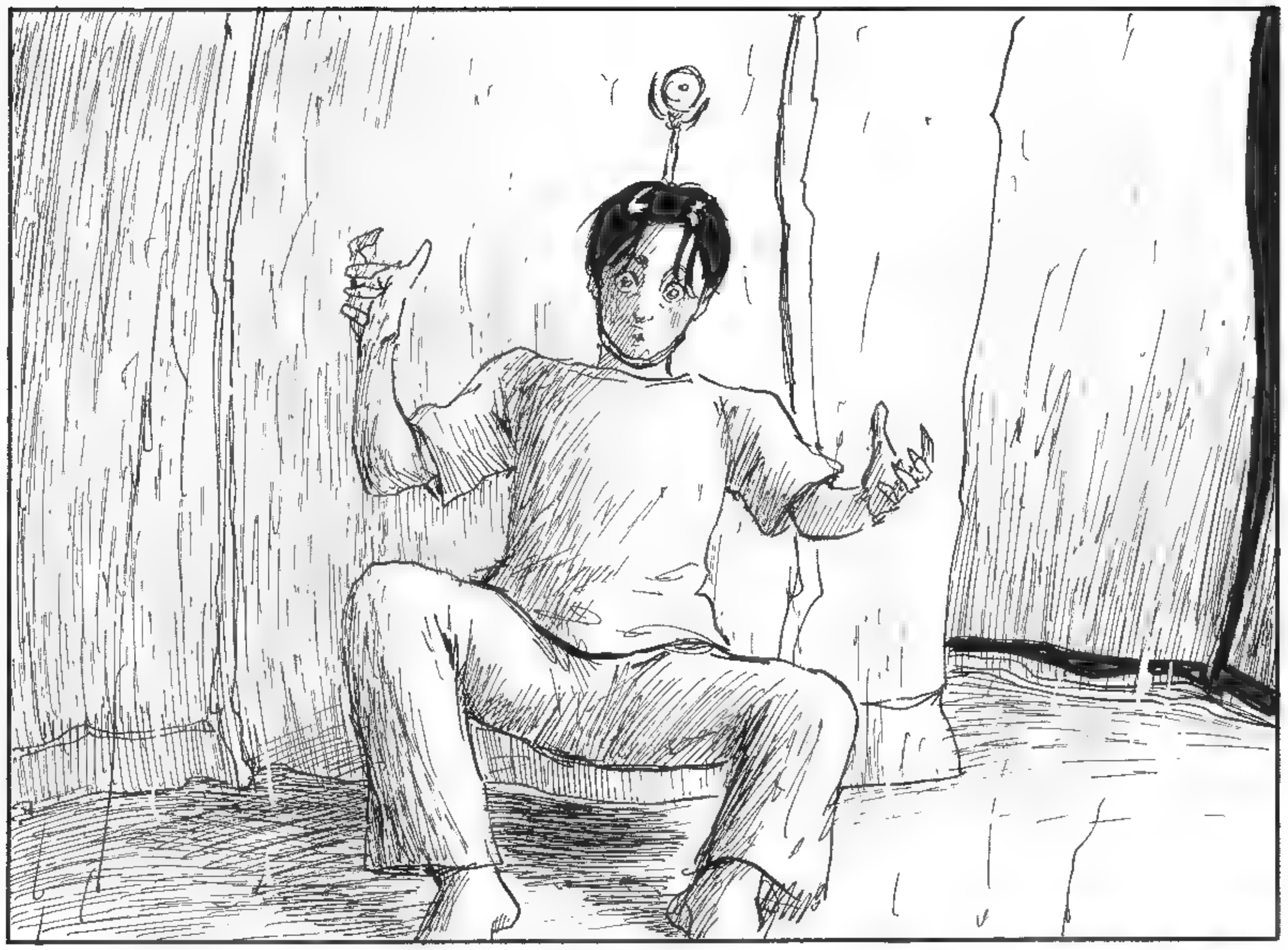
HFF

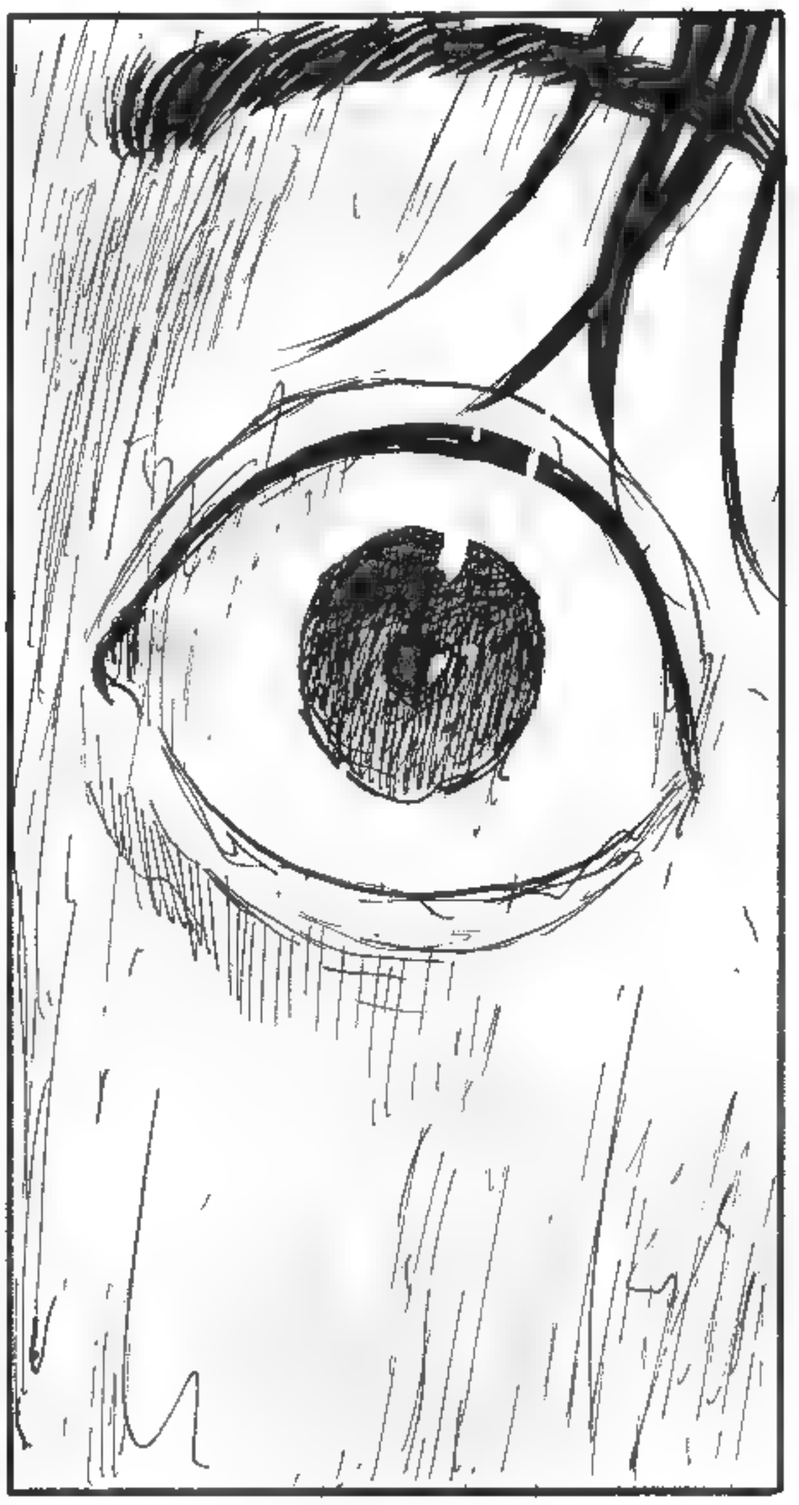
HFF

HOO


GRK



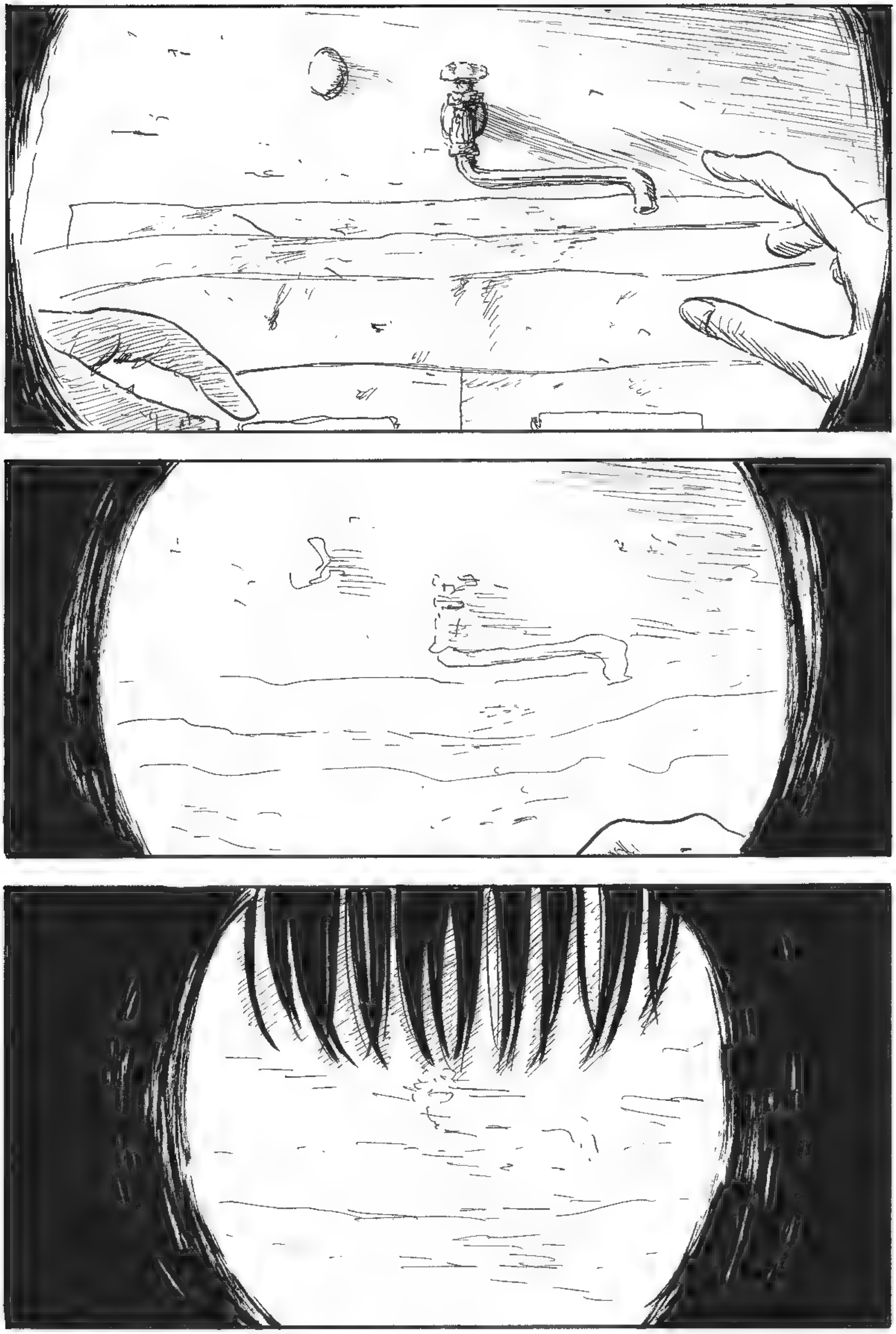




HURRY UP.

COME HANG OUT WITH ME.

SEI.



JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

SEIICHI,

WHUMP

BHUH

BUH...
GUHAH
KOFF
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH

SEIICHI,

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS ...?

WHAT...

DOING ...?

I THOUGHT ...

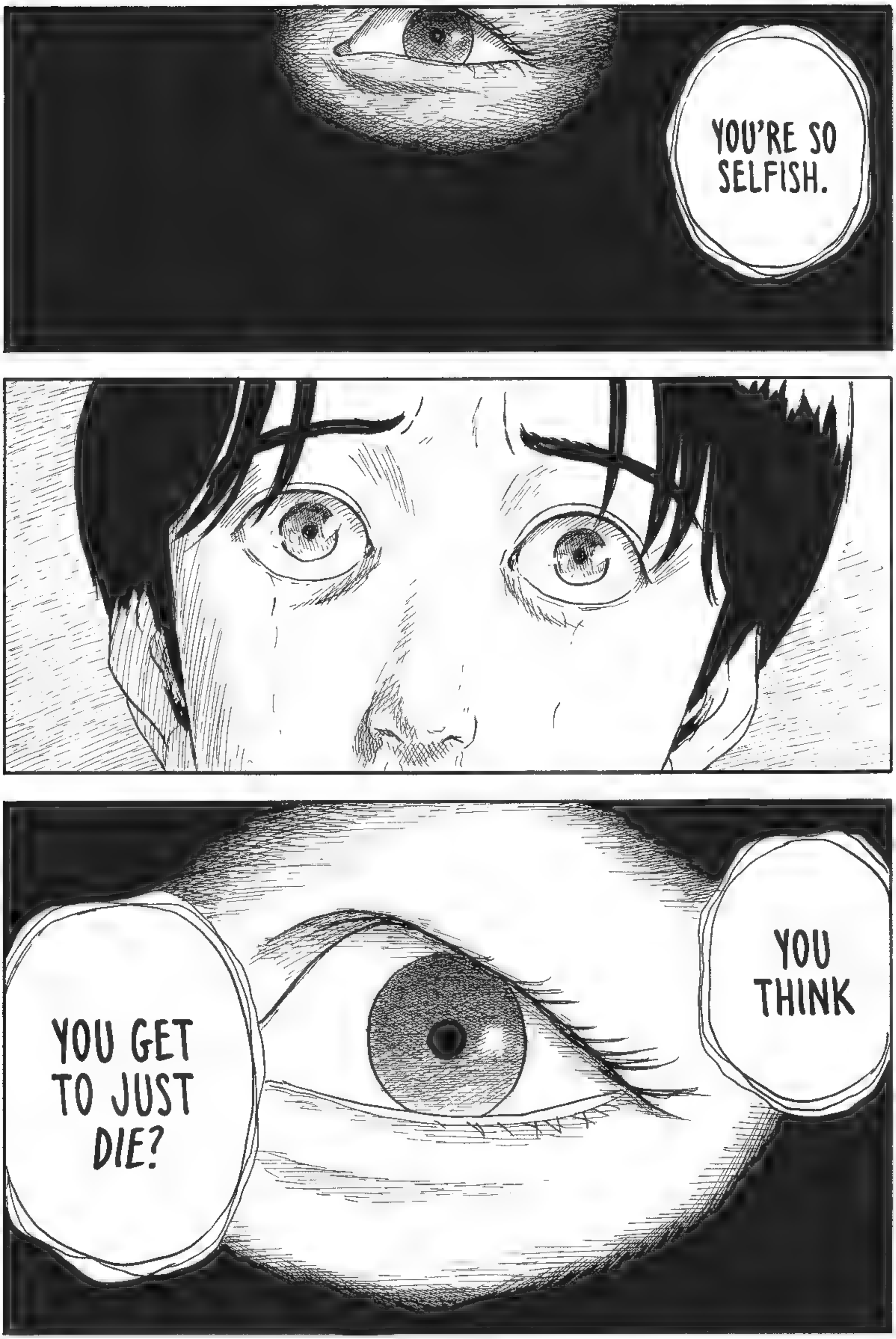
I COULD FINALLY DIE...

WHAT DO YOU CARE ...?

WANT IT TO END, ALREADY!

I JUST...

55


YOU'RE SO SELFISH.
YOU GET TO JUST DIE?
YOU THINK

GO AWAY !!

GO AWAY ...!

SHUT UP...

SHUT UP!!

AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME NOT TO DIE ?!

YOU'RE THE ONE... WHO TOLD ME NOT TO LIVE...

NGH...

Contains polyethylene

45ℓ

HOW LONG...

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO...

NGHH... NGH...

ALL... THIS TIME...

BUT...

YOU'RE... GONE...

YOU'VE BEEN GONE SO LONG...

JUST YOUR PUPPET...

I'M STILL...

YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO IT?

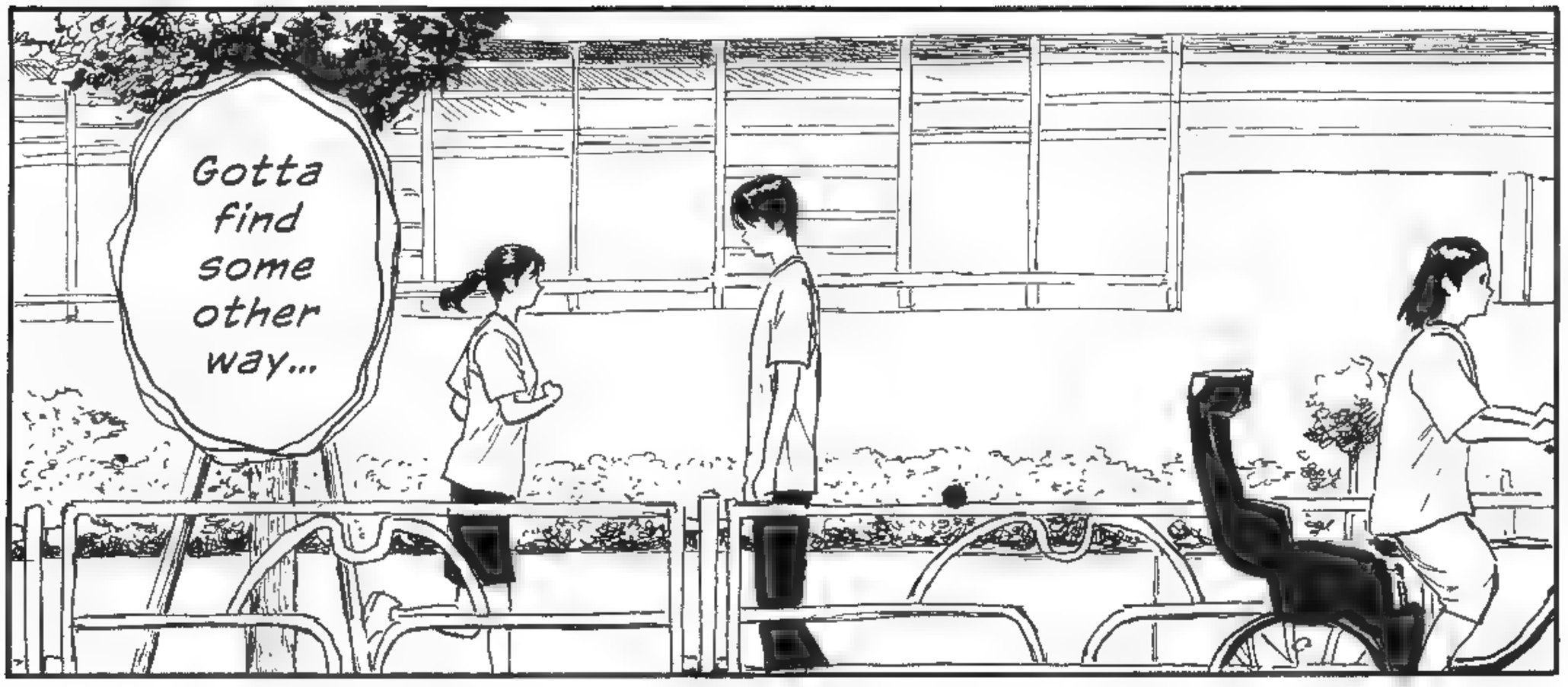
I'LL DIE...

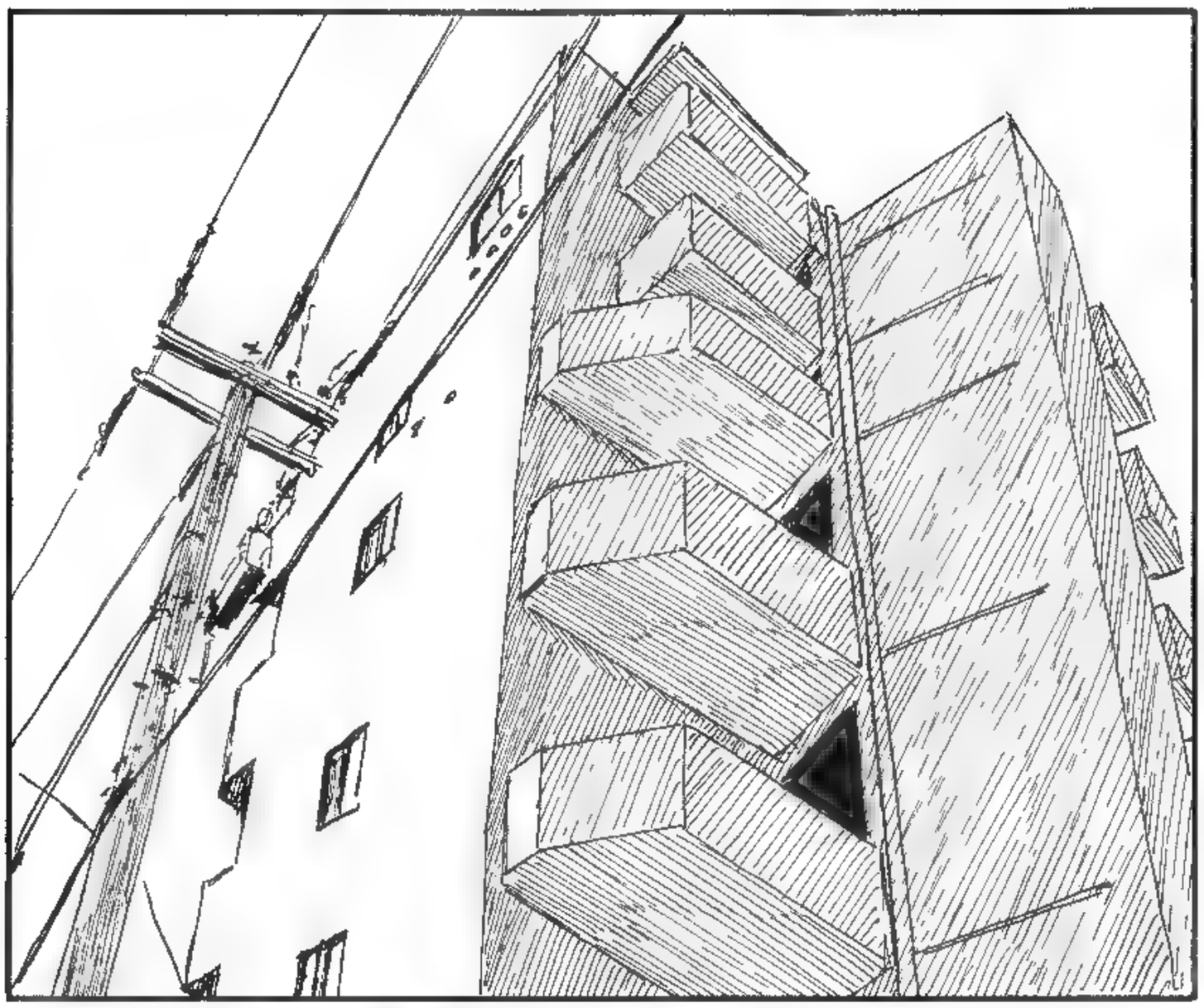
...I WILL.

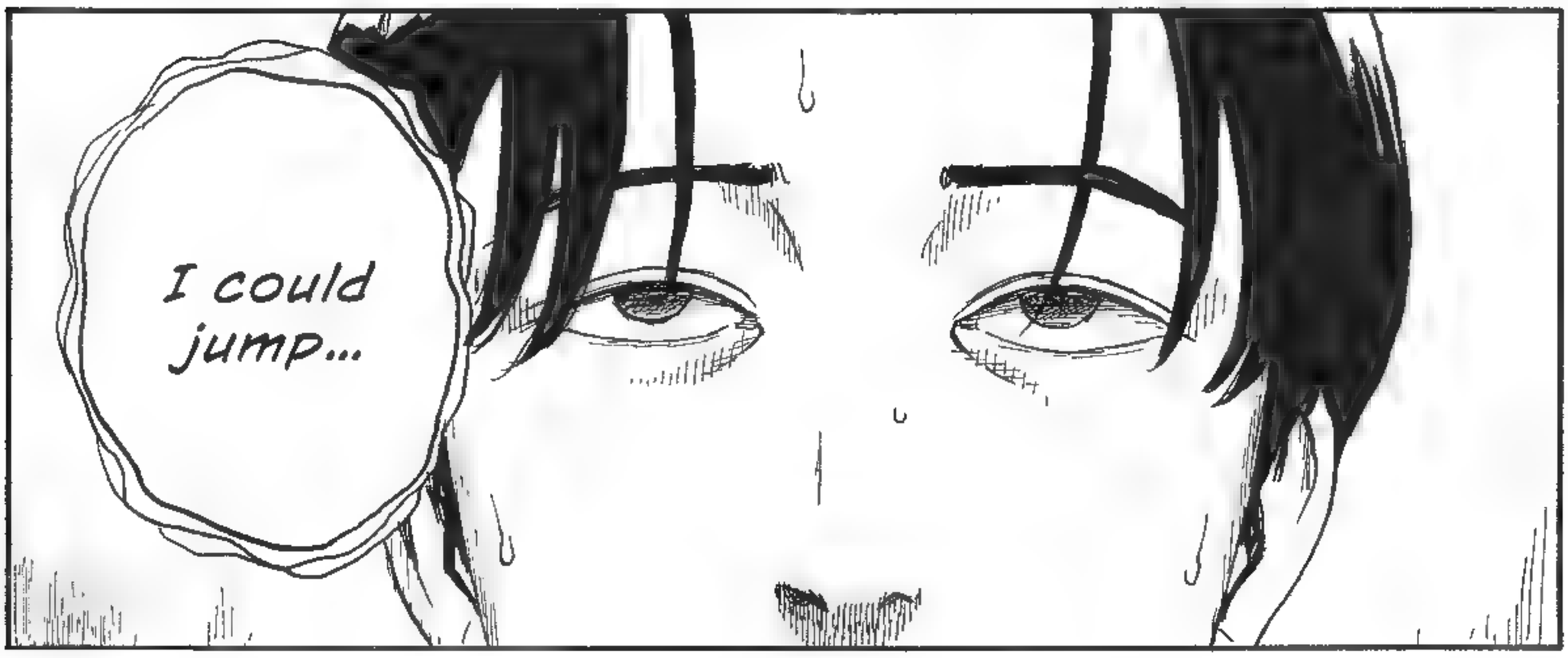
TOMOR-ROW...

CHEE
チ
CHEEP
チュン
CHRP
チ〜
CHEEP
チュン
CHEEP
チュン

Hanging myself... isn't gonna work...


Gotta find some other way...




I could jump...

NO...

NEEKNEEKNEEK

Carbon monoxide...

Sleeping pills...

PLEASE WAIT

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

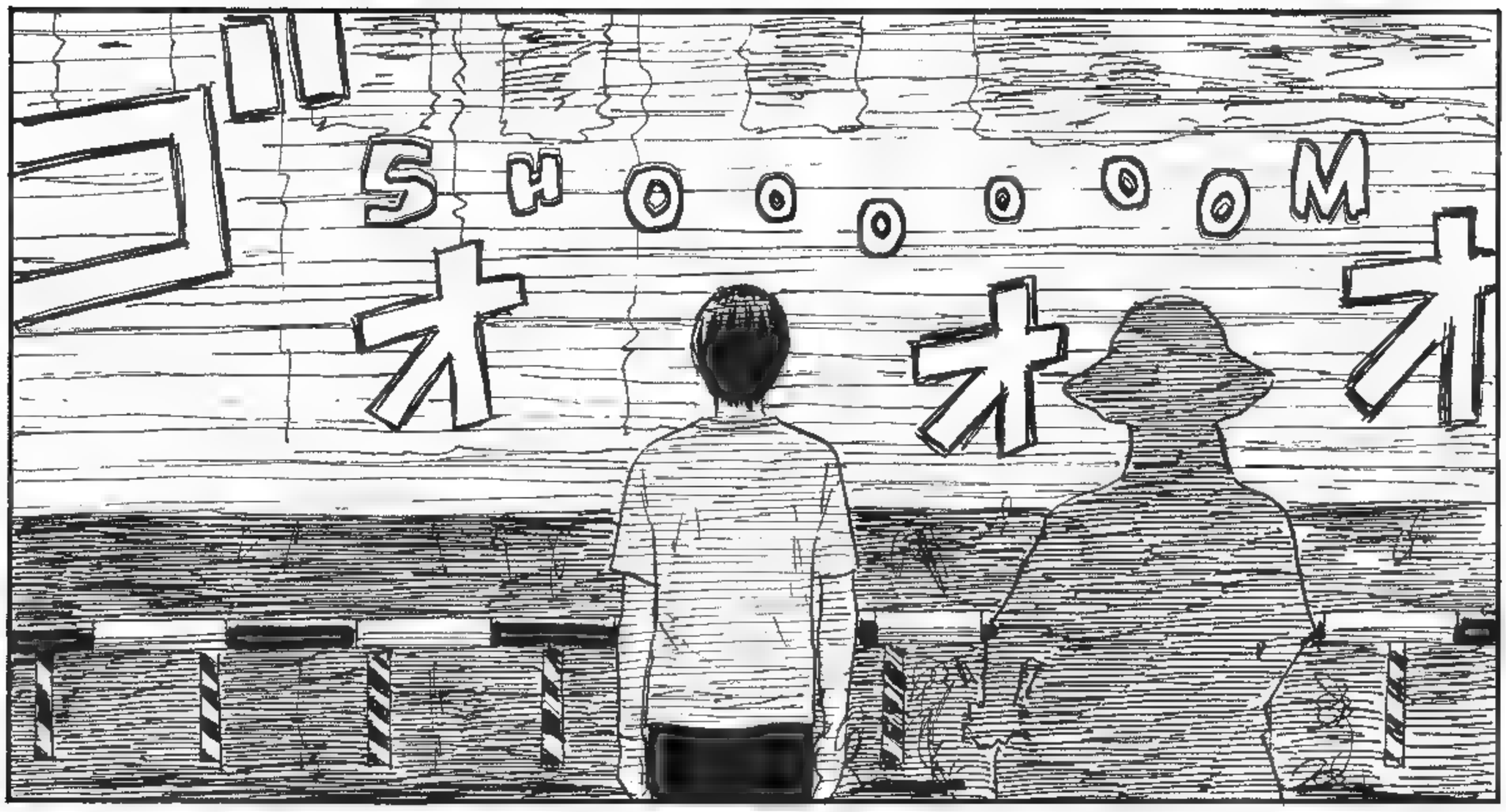
TA-TUNK

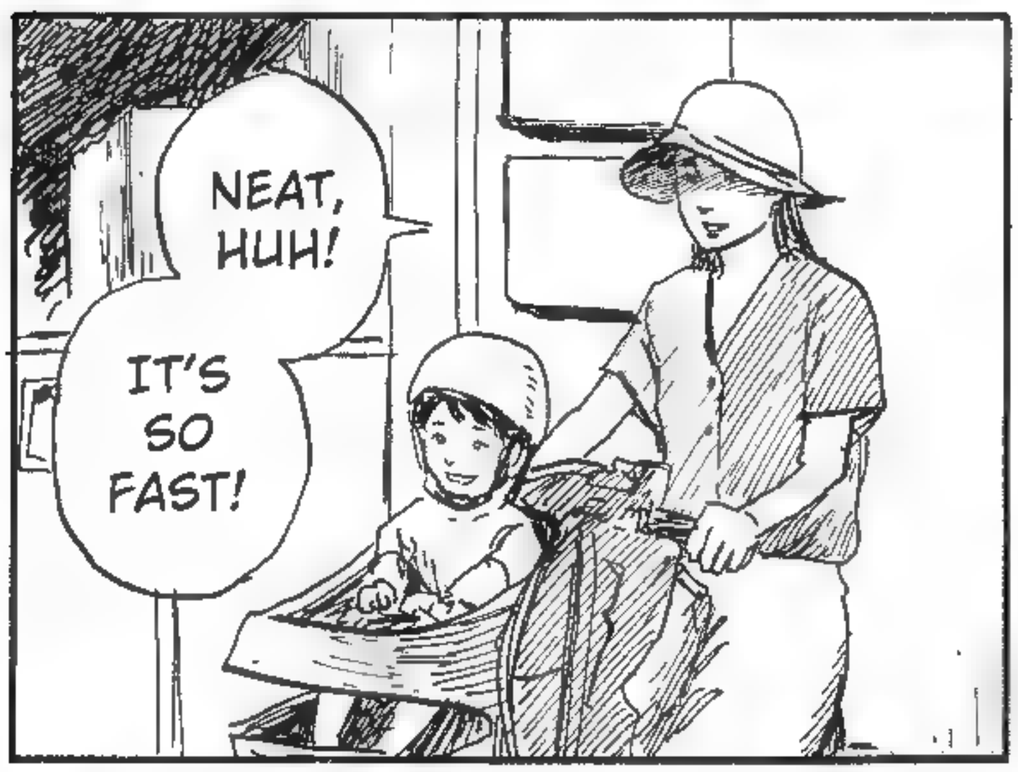
TA-TUNK

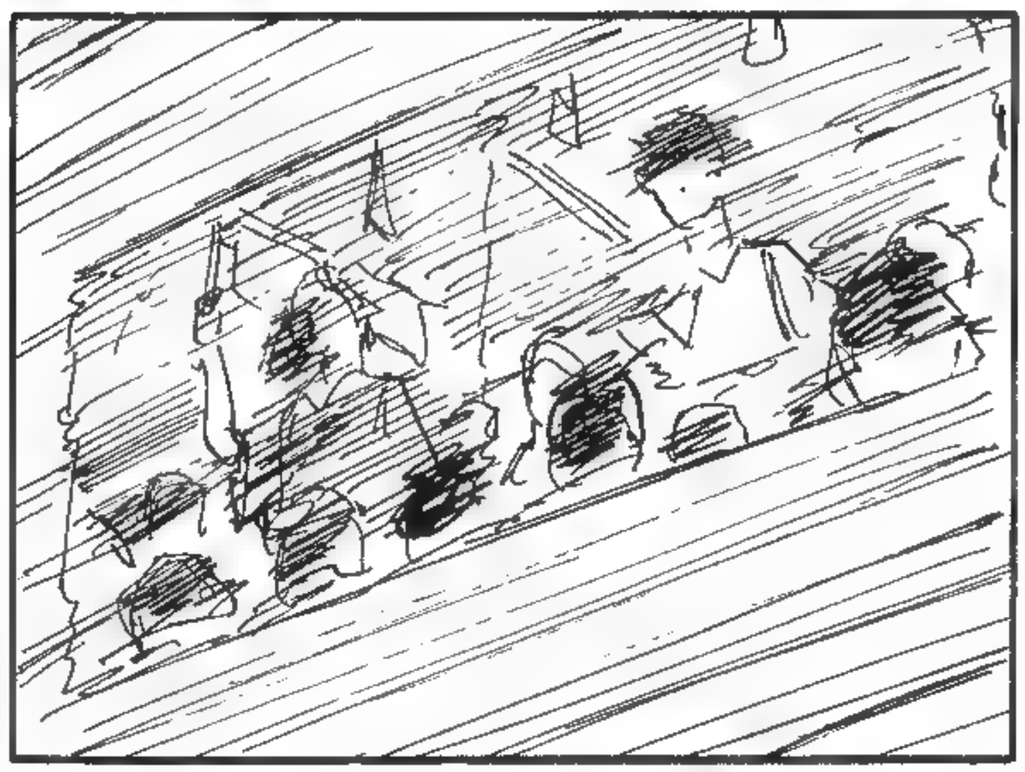
CLANG

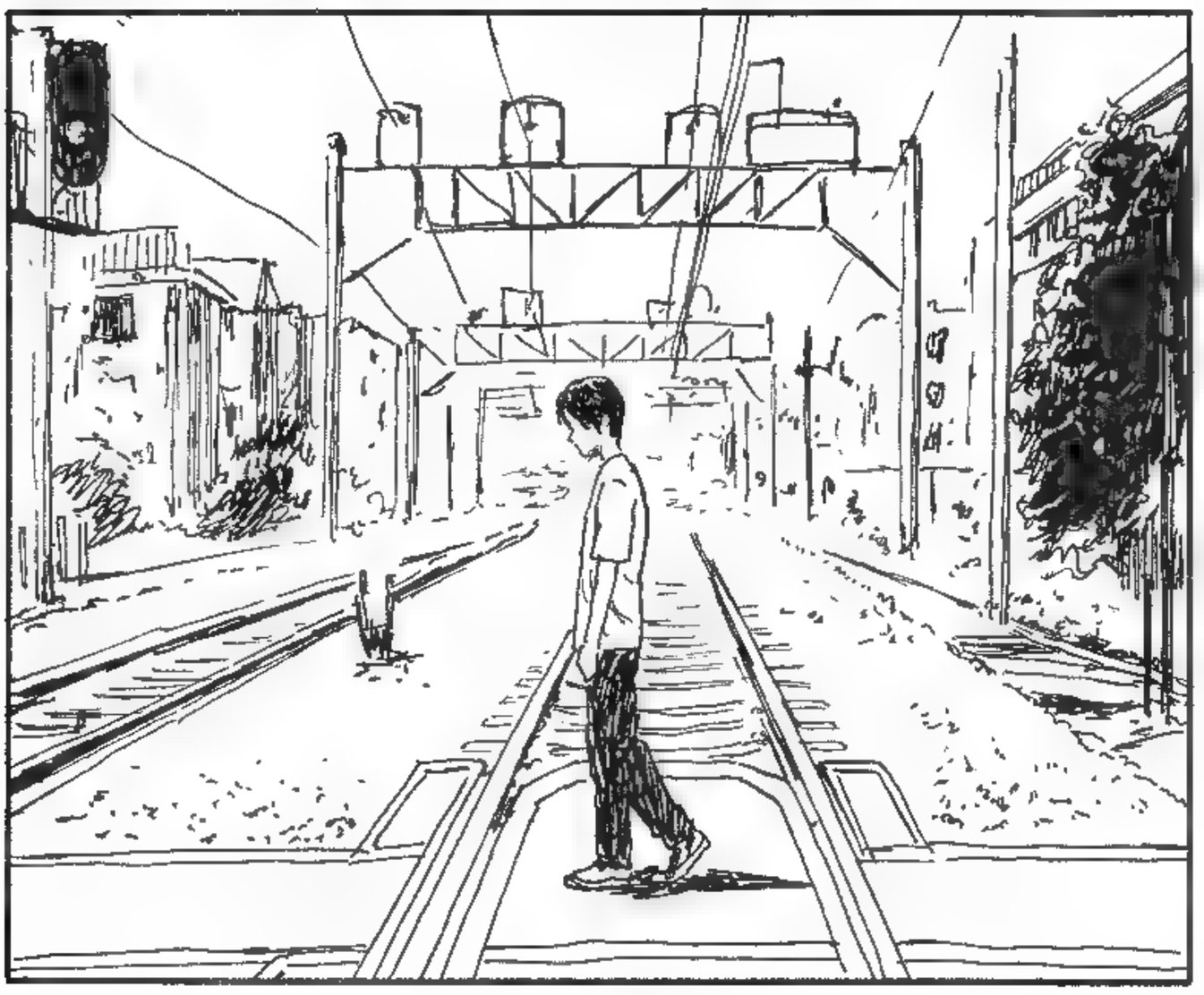
CLANG

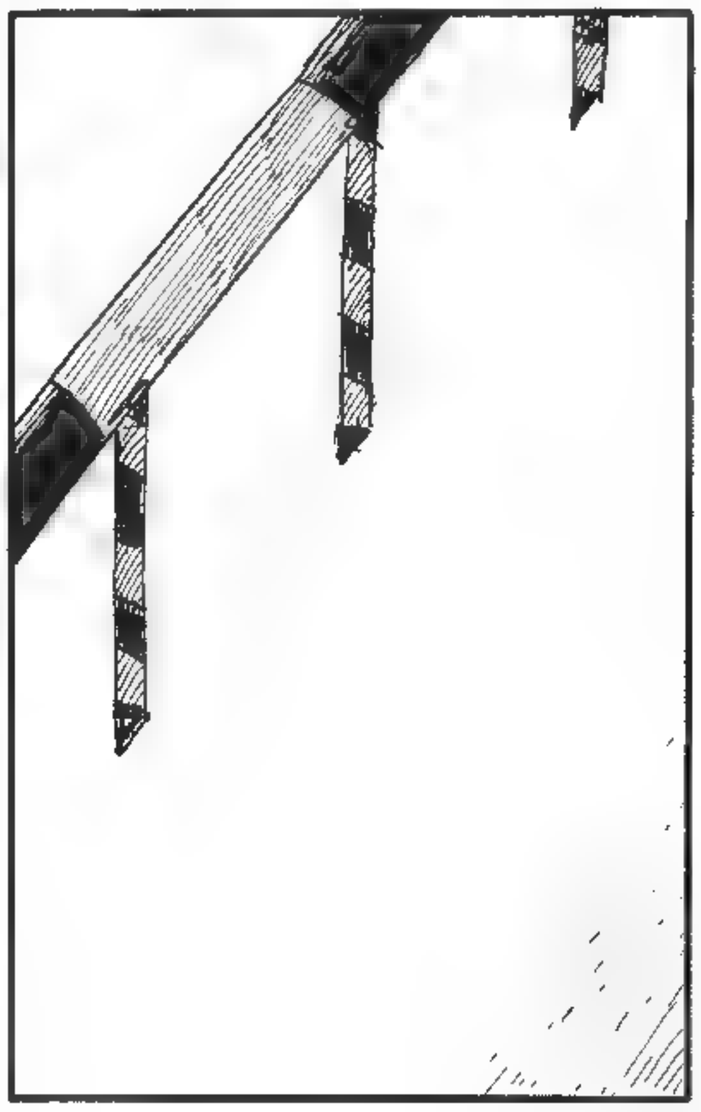
CLANG


SHOOOOOOOM

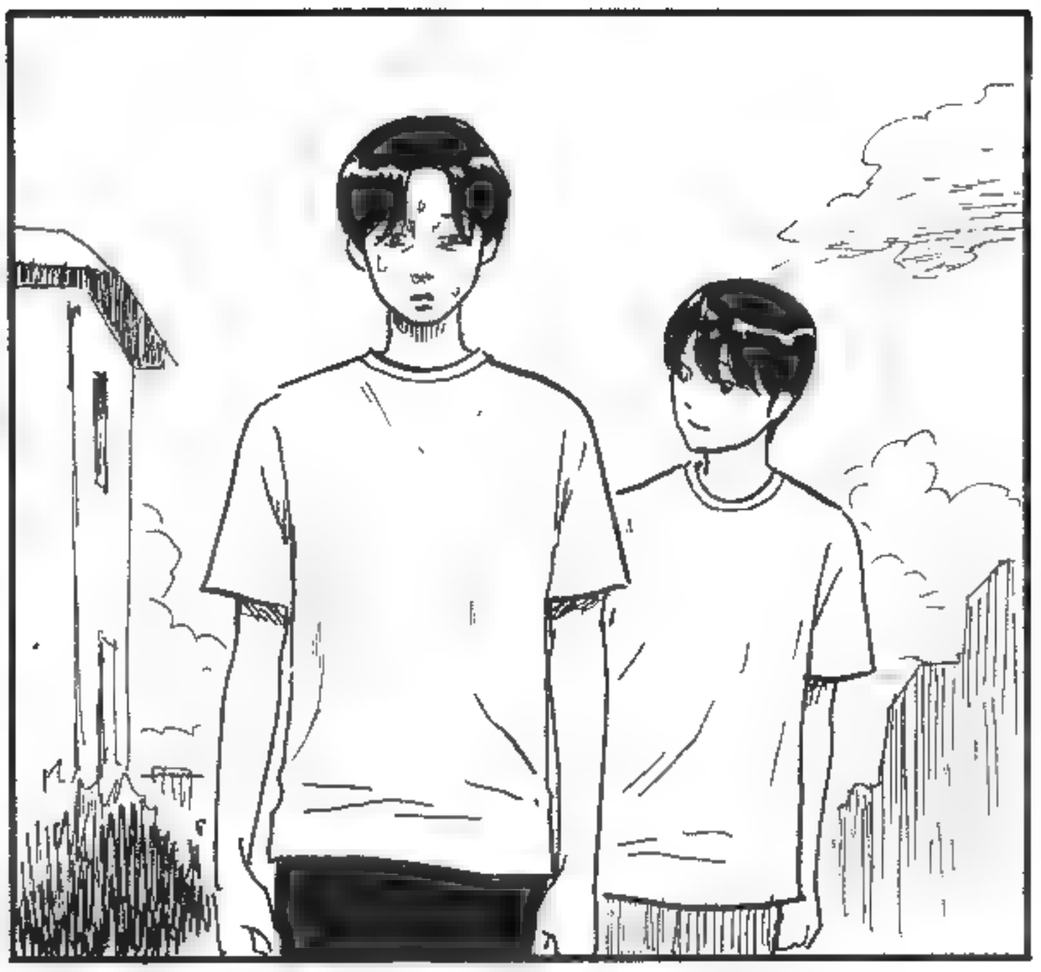

NEAT, HUH!
IT'S SO FAST!



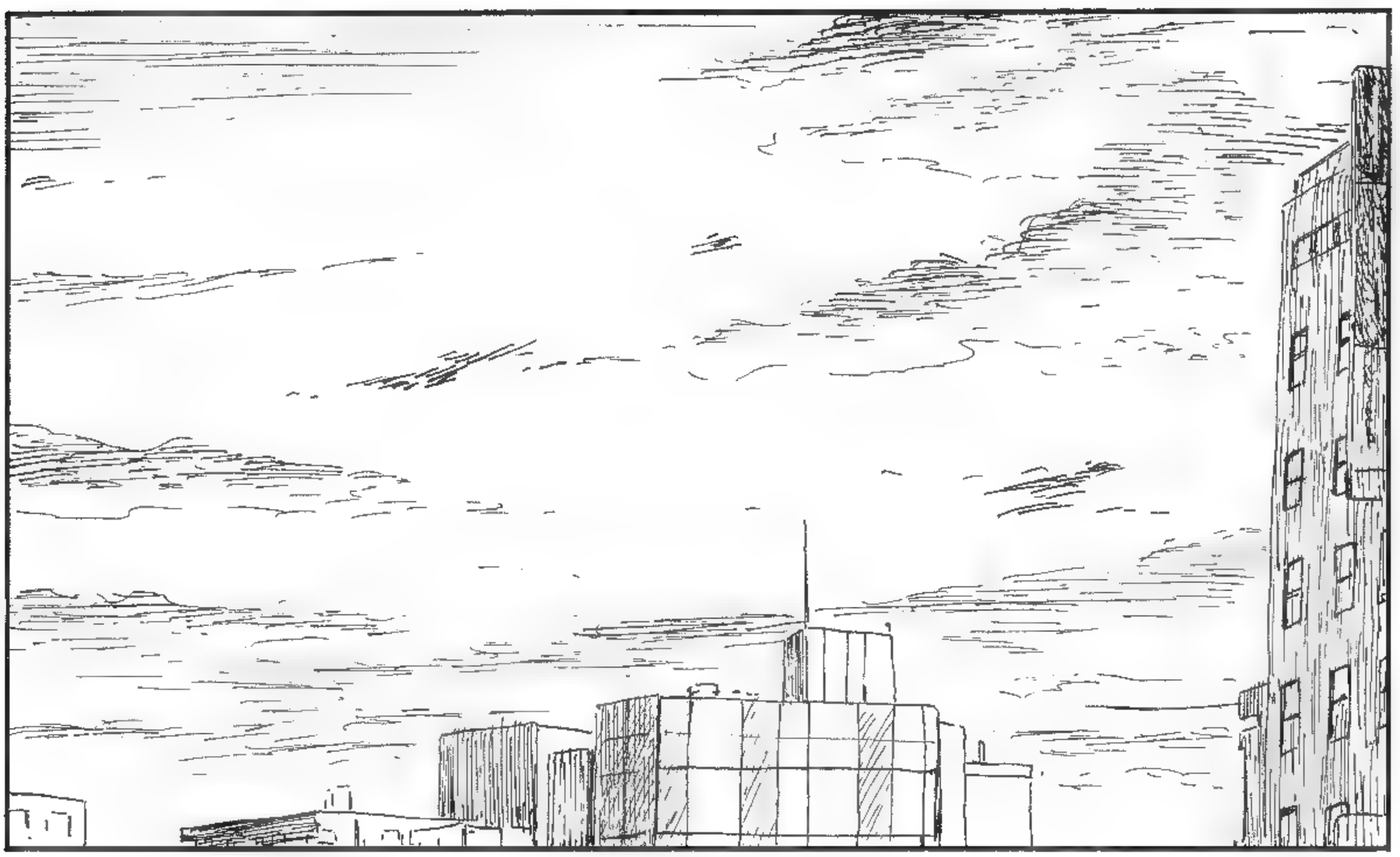


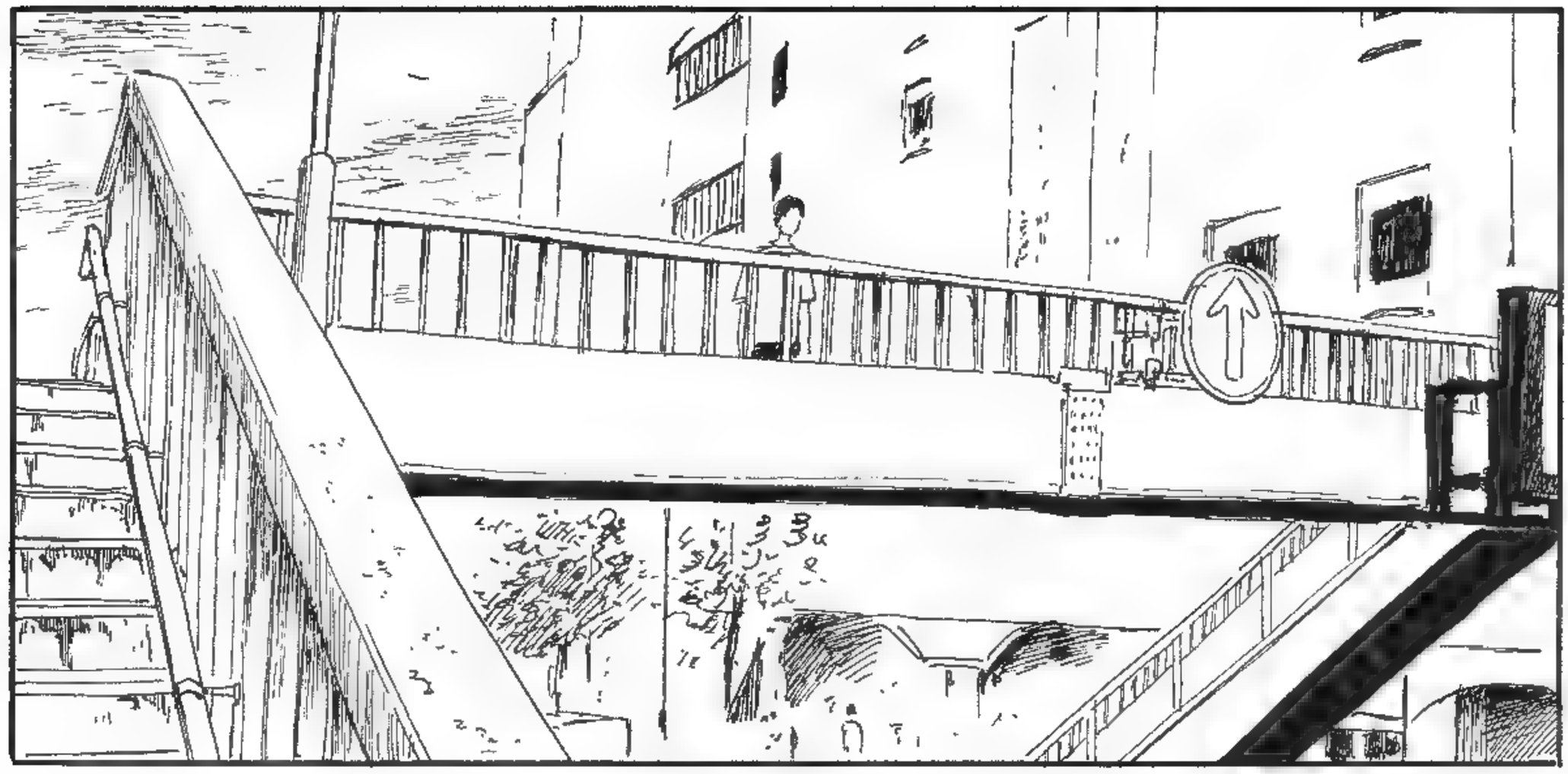


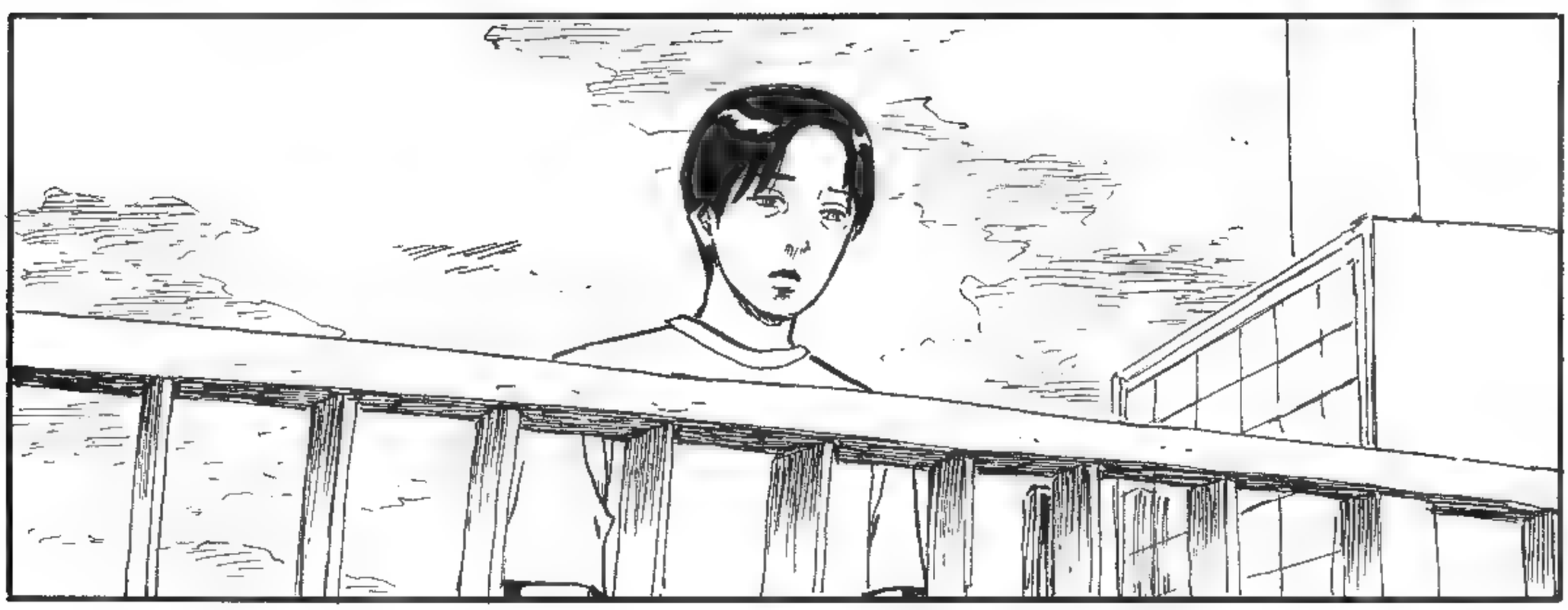
STILL NOT READY ?

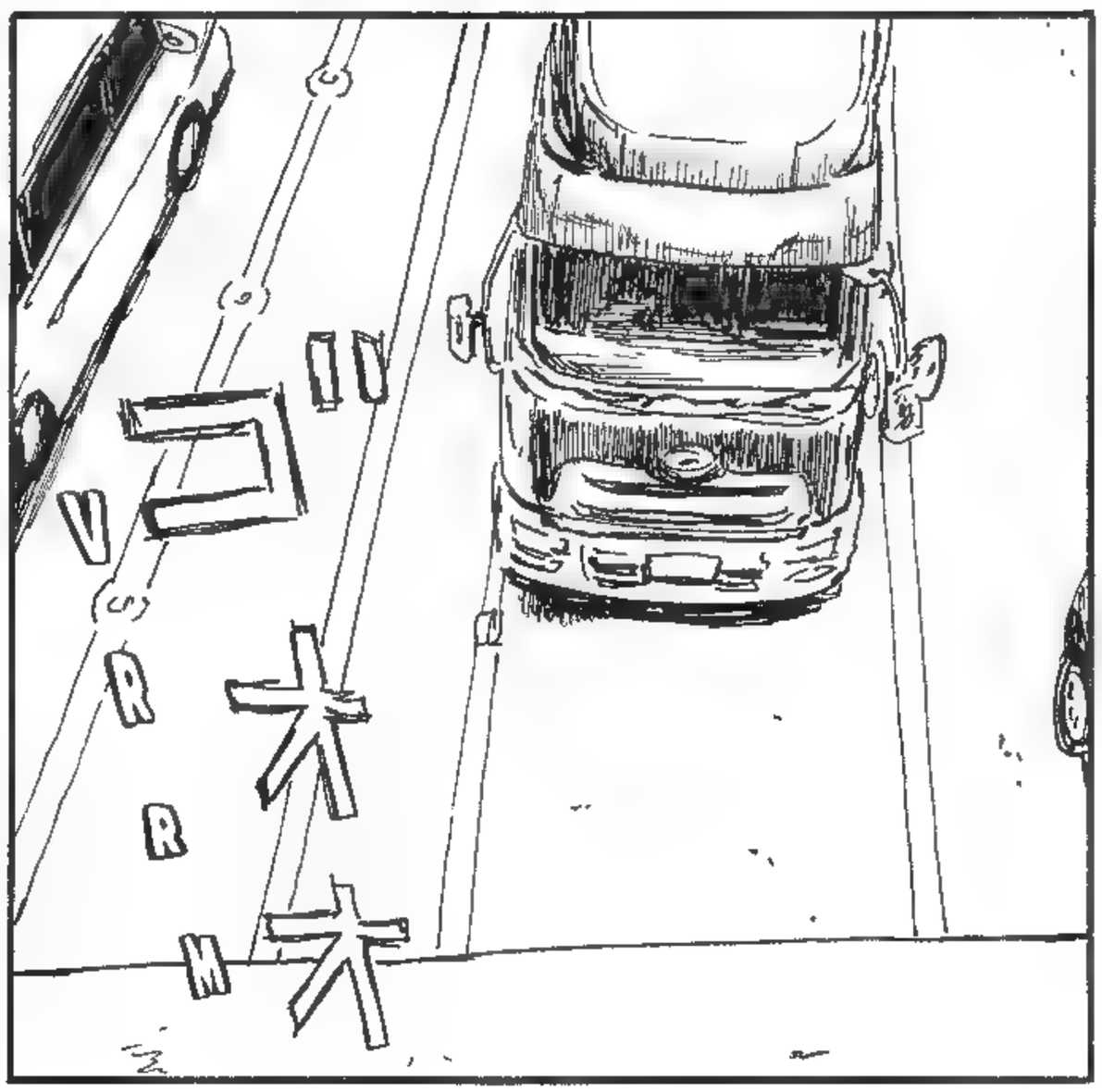


JUST GIVE ME SOME TIME...
...JUST...









CHANGE YOUR MIND?
...BUT...
...NO...
I HAVEN'T CHANGED MY MIND ...
I JUST CAN'T DO IT...
BUT...

I CAN'T DO IT...

GOTTA GO TO WORK.

I

DING
DADA
DING
DING
DING
DADA
DING
DING
DING
DADA
DING
DING

What's this number...?

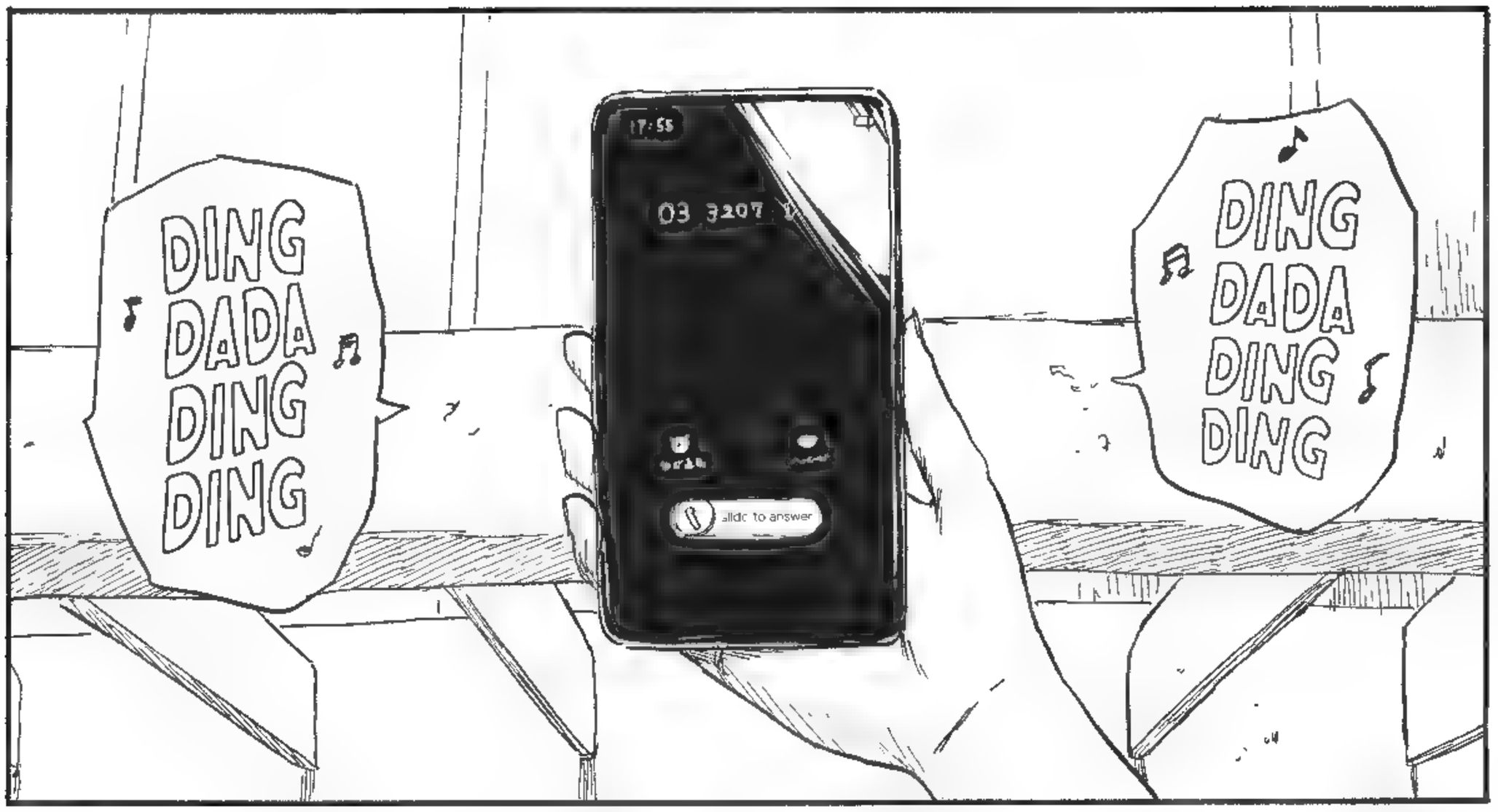
03 3207

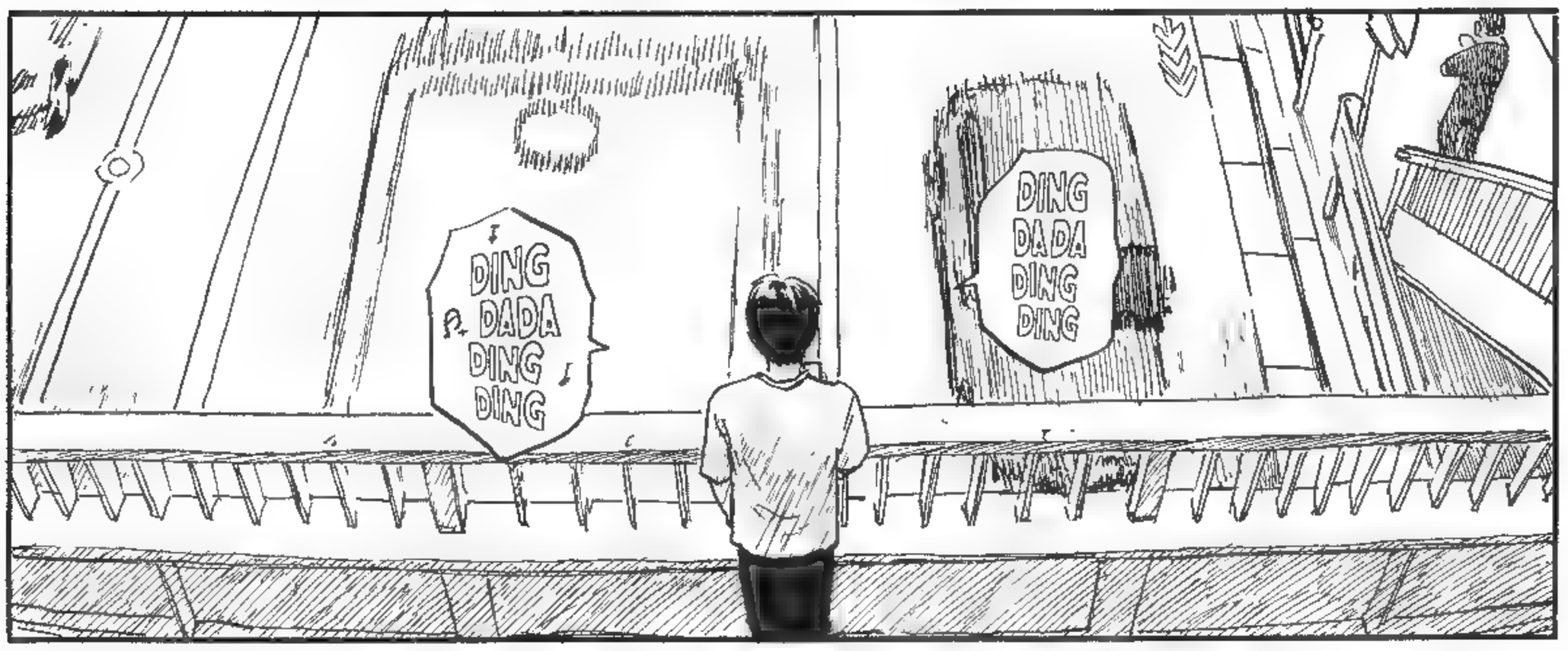
DING DADA DING

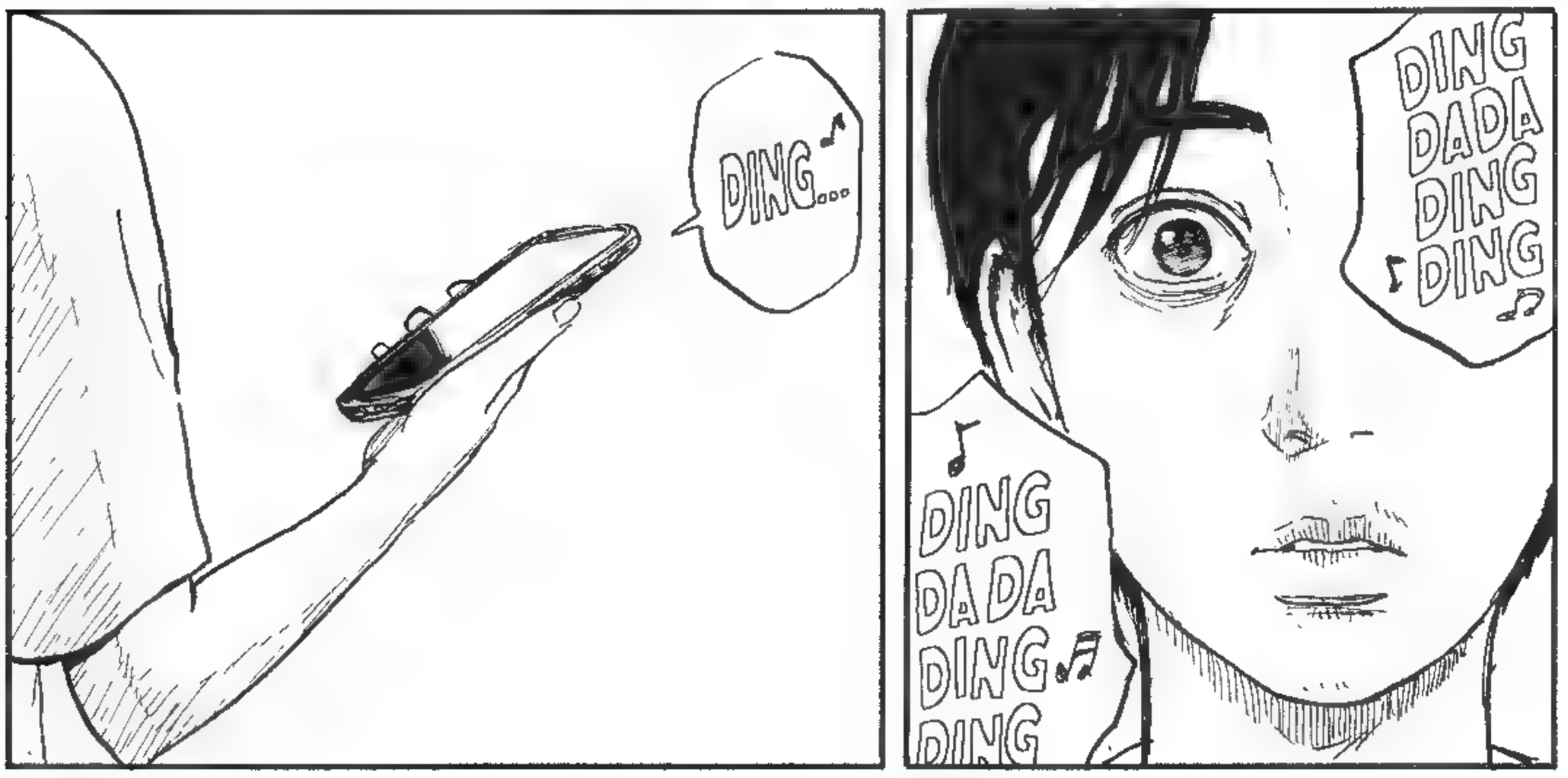
DING DADA DING DING

DING DADA DING DING

Blood on the Tracks


DING
DADA
DING
DING
17:55
03 3207
alldc to answer
DING
DADA
DING
DING


DING
DADA
DING
DING
DING
DADA
DING
DING


DING...
DING
DADA
DING
DING
DADA
DING

SATURDAY 1

WEDNESDAY 1

VOICEMAIL

YPAD

VEDNESDAY 1

1

VOICEMAIL

OH... HELLO,

IS THIS SEIICHI OSABE'S CELL PHONE?

I'LL TRY AGAIN LATER.

MY NAME IS AOYAMA, I'M CALLING FROM THE TOTSUKA NORTH POLICE STATION.

GO TO WORK...

WORK...

JR荻窪駅

丸ノ内線

BEEP

BEEP

DING DADA DING DING

HFF

HFF

DING DADA DING DING

DING DADA DING DING

OH...

EXCUSE ME, YOU'RE IN THE WAY!

AUDIO

KEYPAD

FACETIME

MUTE

HELLO...

HELLO?

AH...

IS ANYONE THERE?

...HELLO?

OH,

IS THIS SEIICHI OSABE?

YES... SPEAK-ING...

THE REASON I'M CALLING IS, WELL...

THIS IS AOYAMA FROM THE TOTSUKA NORTH POLICE STATION.

SEIKO TAMIYA ?

DO YOU KNOW A

IS THAT RIGHT?

I BELIEVE YOU'RE HER SON,

UH...

WE HAVE HER HERE IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY RIGHT NOW.

THE THING IS,

WE FOUND HER IN IKEBUKURO ...

HAAH

SEE, SHE WAS WANDERING AROUND.

WALKING IN THE STREET...

HAAH

HAAH

SHE'S... NOT MAKING A LOT OF SENSE...

HAAH

WE GOT HER ADDRESS FROM HER BELONGINGS

AND BROUGHT HER THERE...

BECAUSE SHE WAS BEHIND ON THE RENT.

BUT IT SEEMS SHE'D BEEN KICKED OUT OF HER APARTMENT

I need to hurry

AND THAT'S HOW WE CAME TO CALL YOU.

WE ALSO FOUND YOUR CONTACT INFO

AMONG HER BELONGINGS...

COULD YOU COME PICK HER UP?

HELLO ?

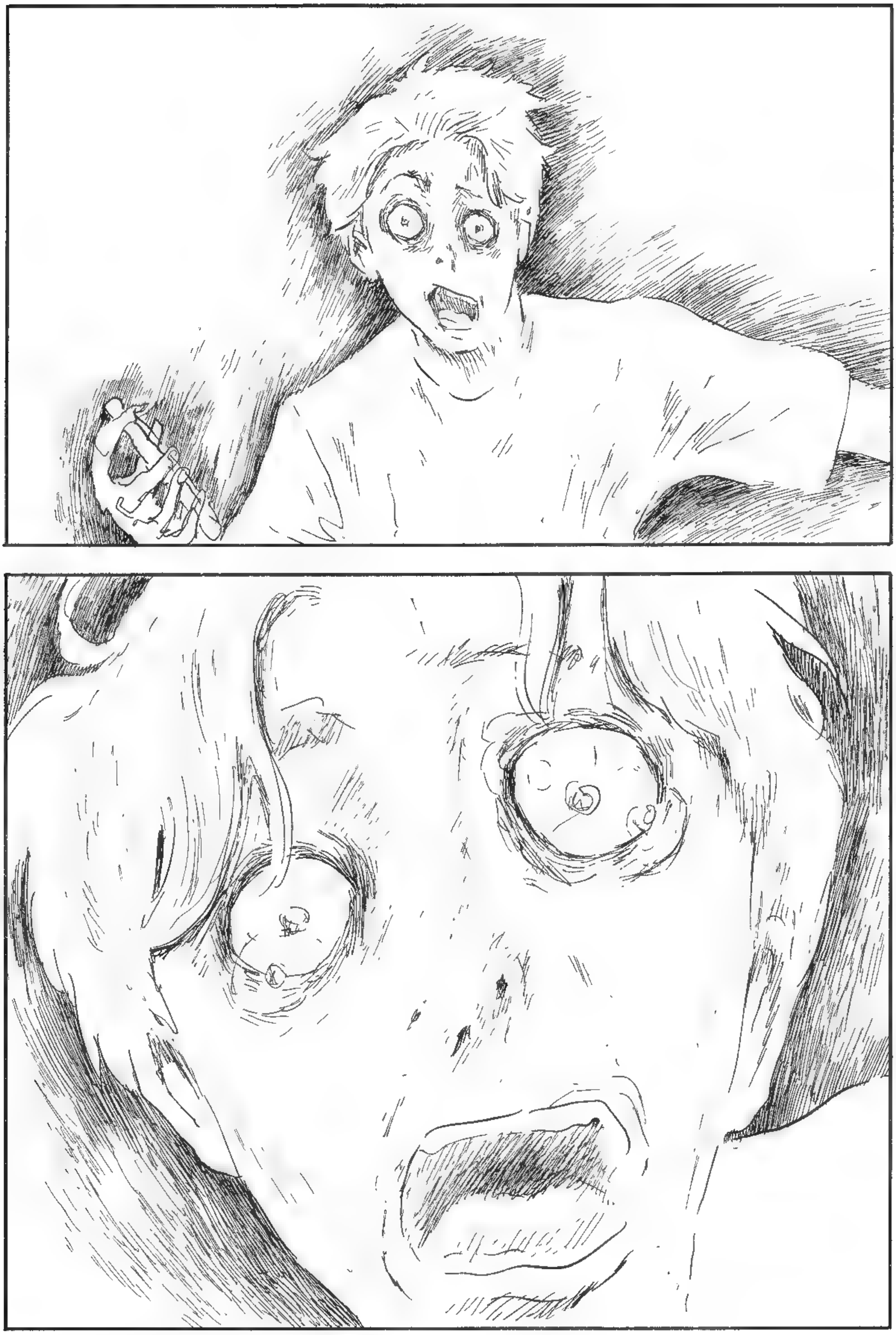
Hurry

Hurry

I need to hurry up and die

HELLO? MR. OSABE?

HONNNK



SHOOO

WHUMP

ARE YOU OKAY ?

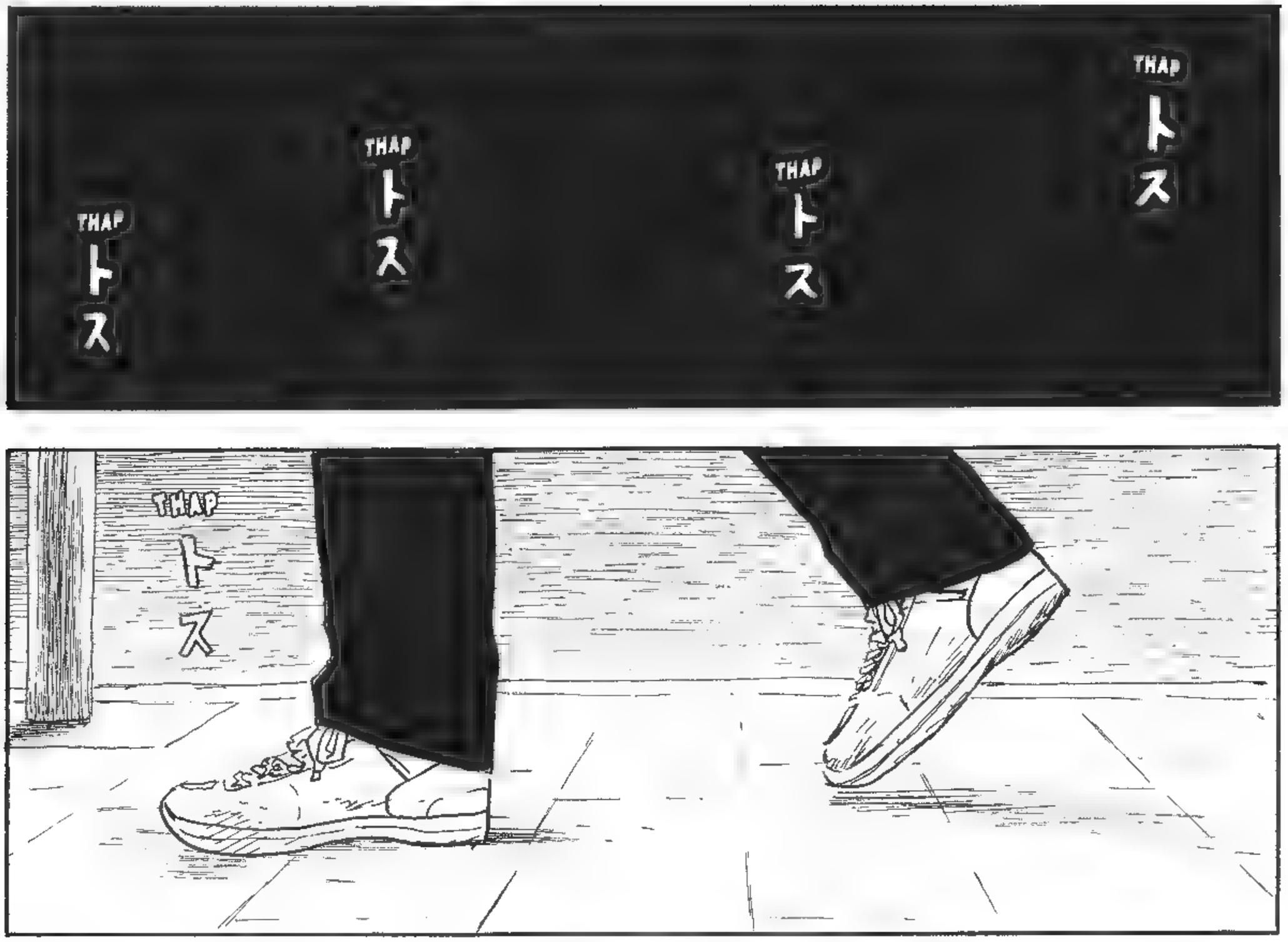
OH MY...

HELLO ??

HELLO ?

MR. OSABE ?

SEI.


THAP
トス
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ドドド

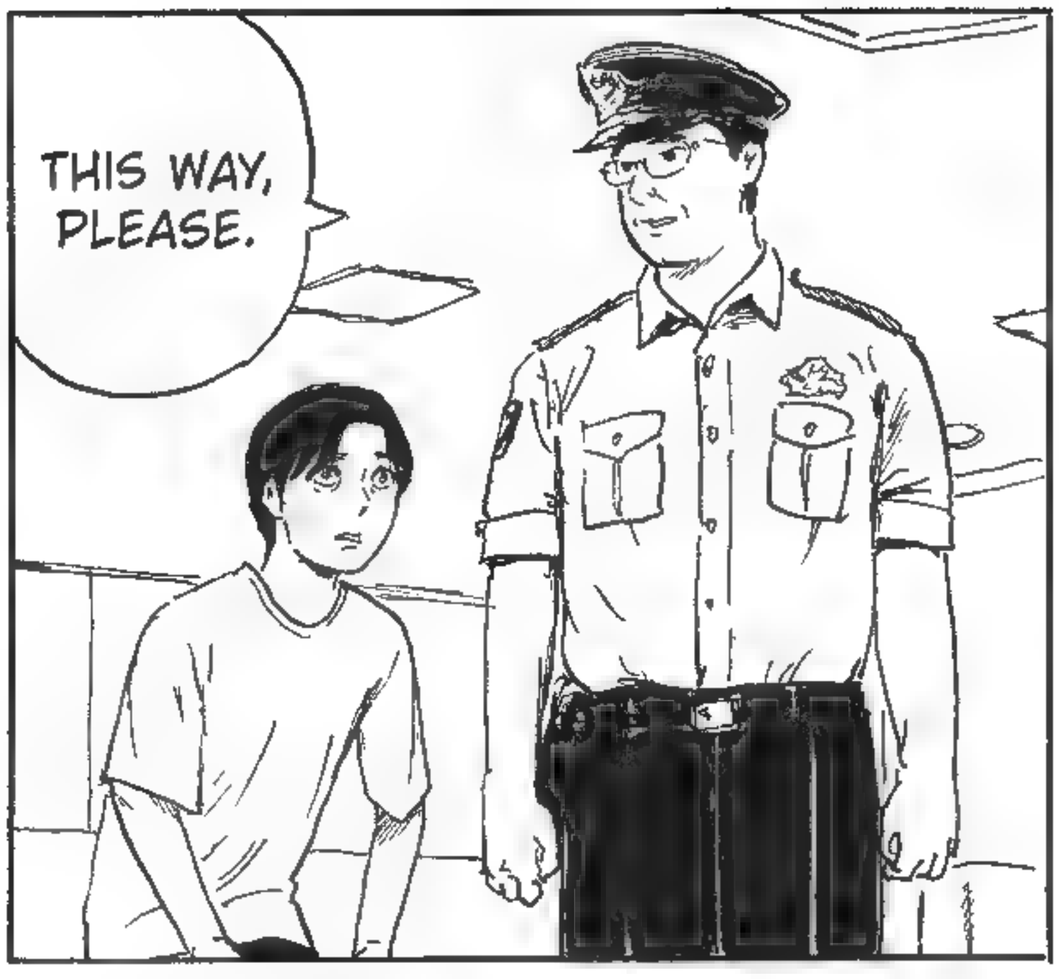
60 MIN.
PAY & DISPLAY
PARKING

TOTSUKA NORTH POLICE STATION
Kindness drives these streets
TOTSUKA NORTH POLICE STATIO

SEIICHI OSABE?

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

WHAT A RELIEF.


THIS WAY, PLEASE.

YOU AND YOUR MOTHER?
SO YOU'VE BEEN ESTRANGED ?

SORRY, MAYBE I SHOULDN'T ASK.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN

SINCE YOU'VE SEEN EACH OTHER?

AND WE WERE ESTRANGED FOR A WHILE THERE, TOO.

I HAD ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS WITH MY OWN FOLKS, THOUGH,

NOTHING CAN REPLACE A PARENT.

BUT WHEN YOU GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT,

SHE WAS STILL CARRYING AROUND YOUR PHONE NUMBER AND AN OLD PICTURE ALBUM.

YOUR MOTHER,

SHE MUST NOT'VE HAD ANY PLACE TO GO AFTER SHE GOT KICKED OUT.

JUST WANDER-ING THE STREETS.

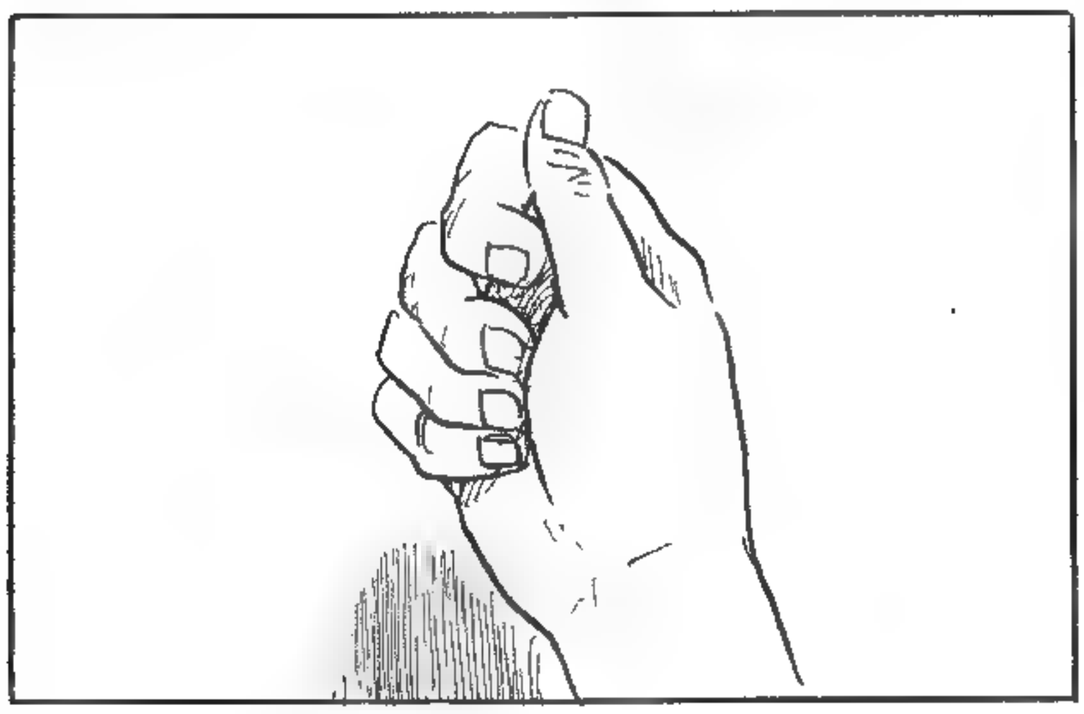
THAT WAS ALL SHE HAD WITH HER.

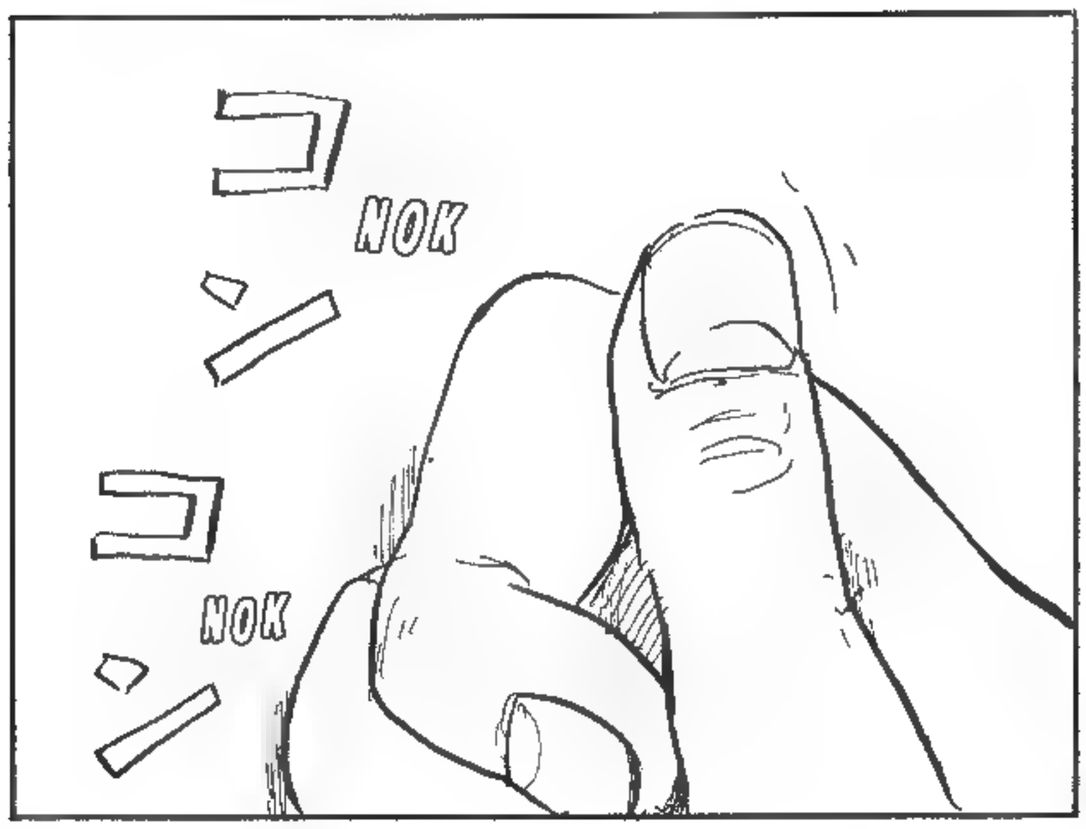
THAT YOU CAME TO GET HER.

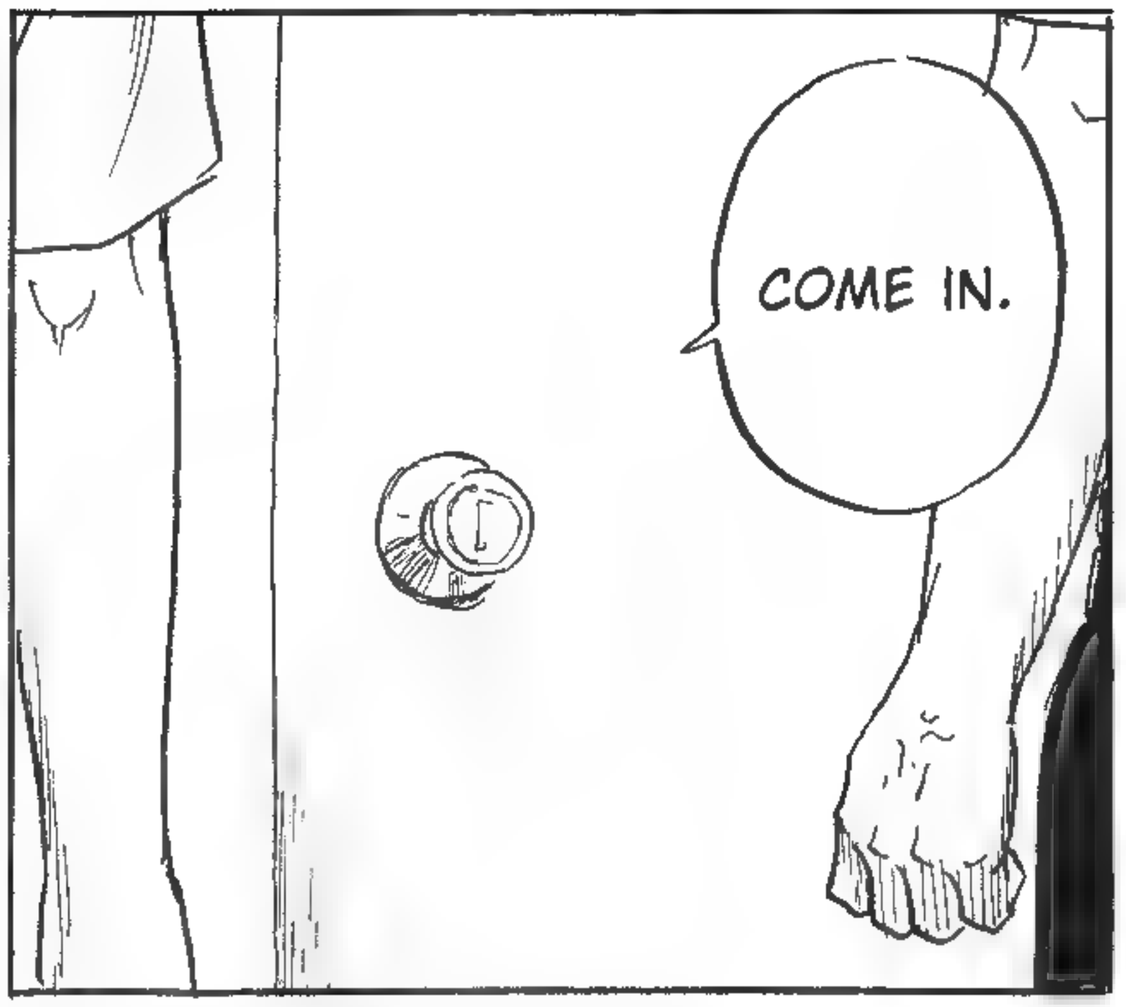
BUT I'M SURE SHE'LL BE GLAD

OKAY,

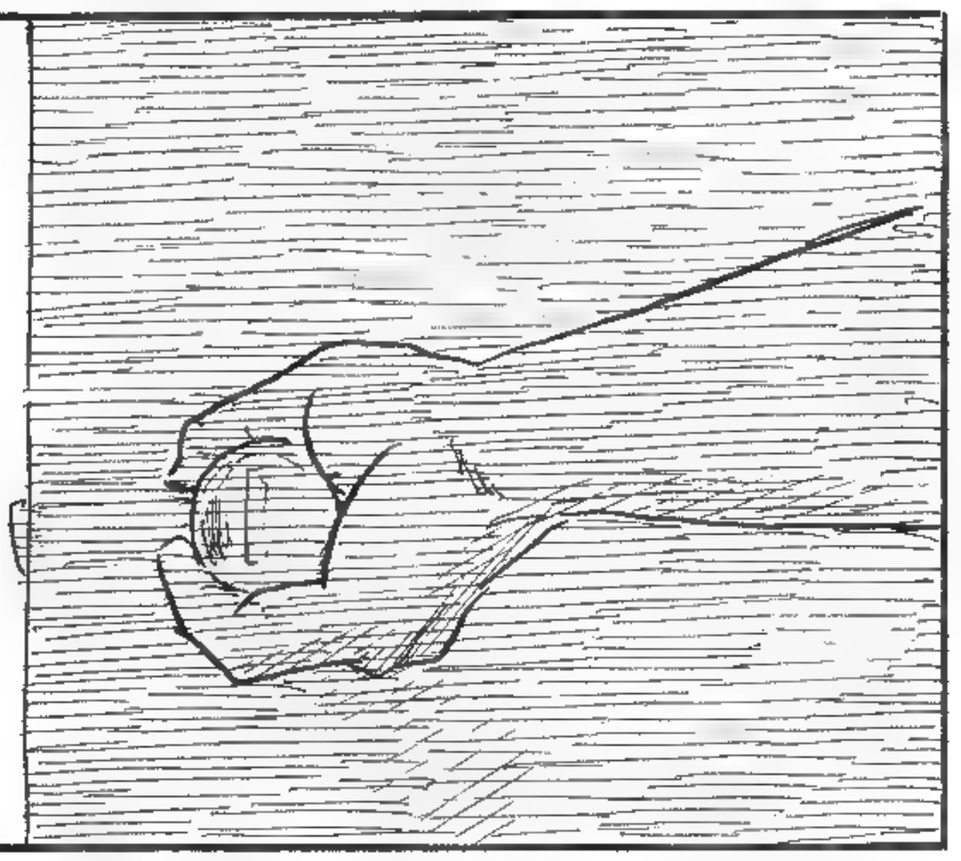
HERE WE ARE.

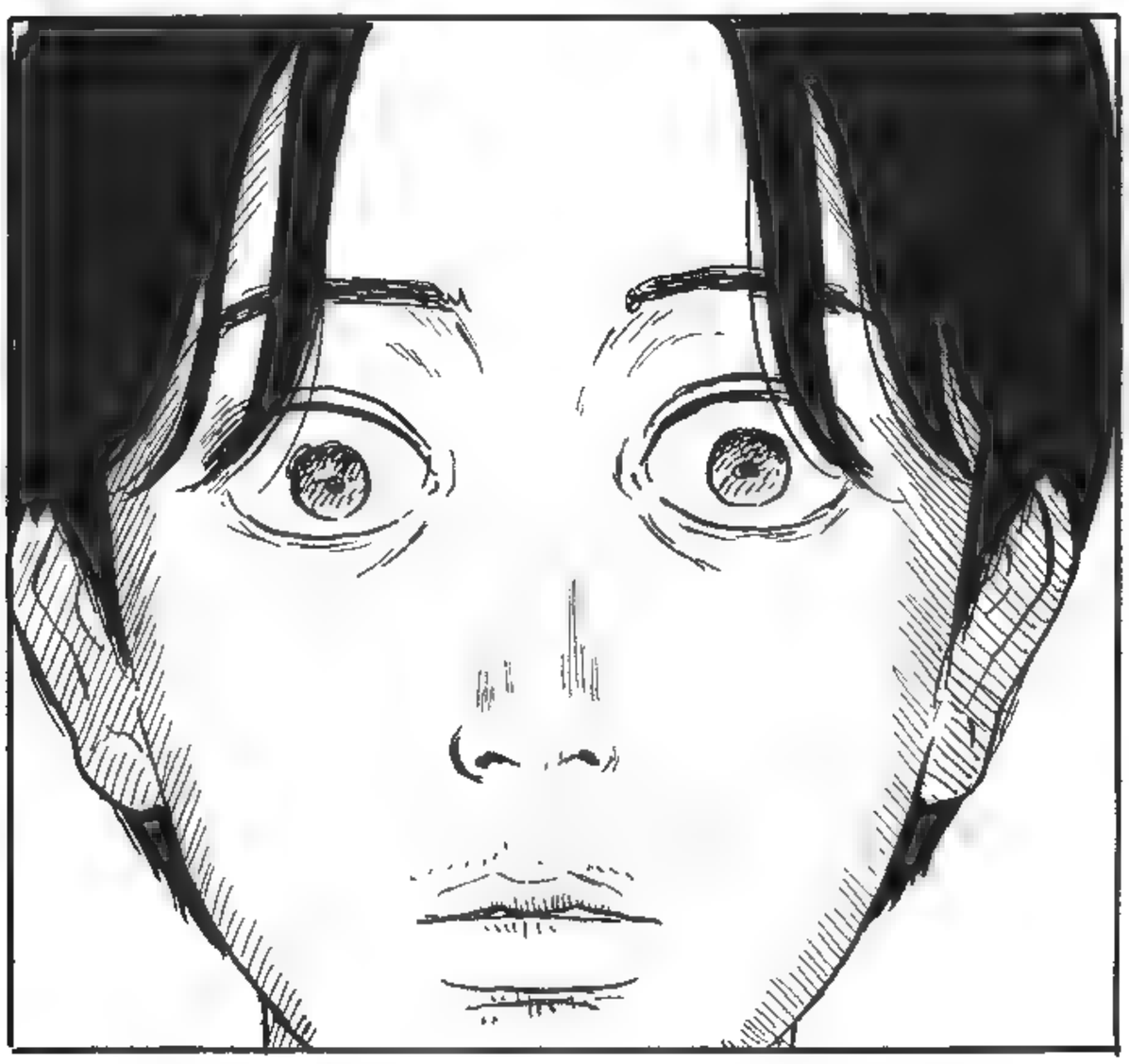




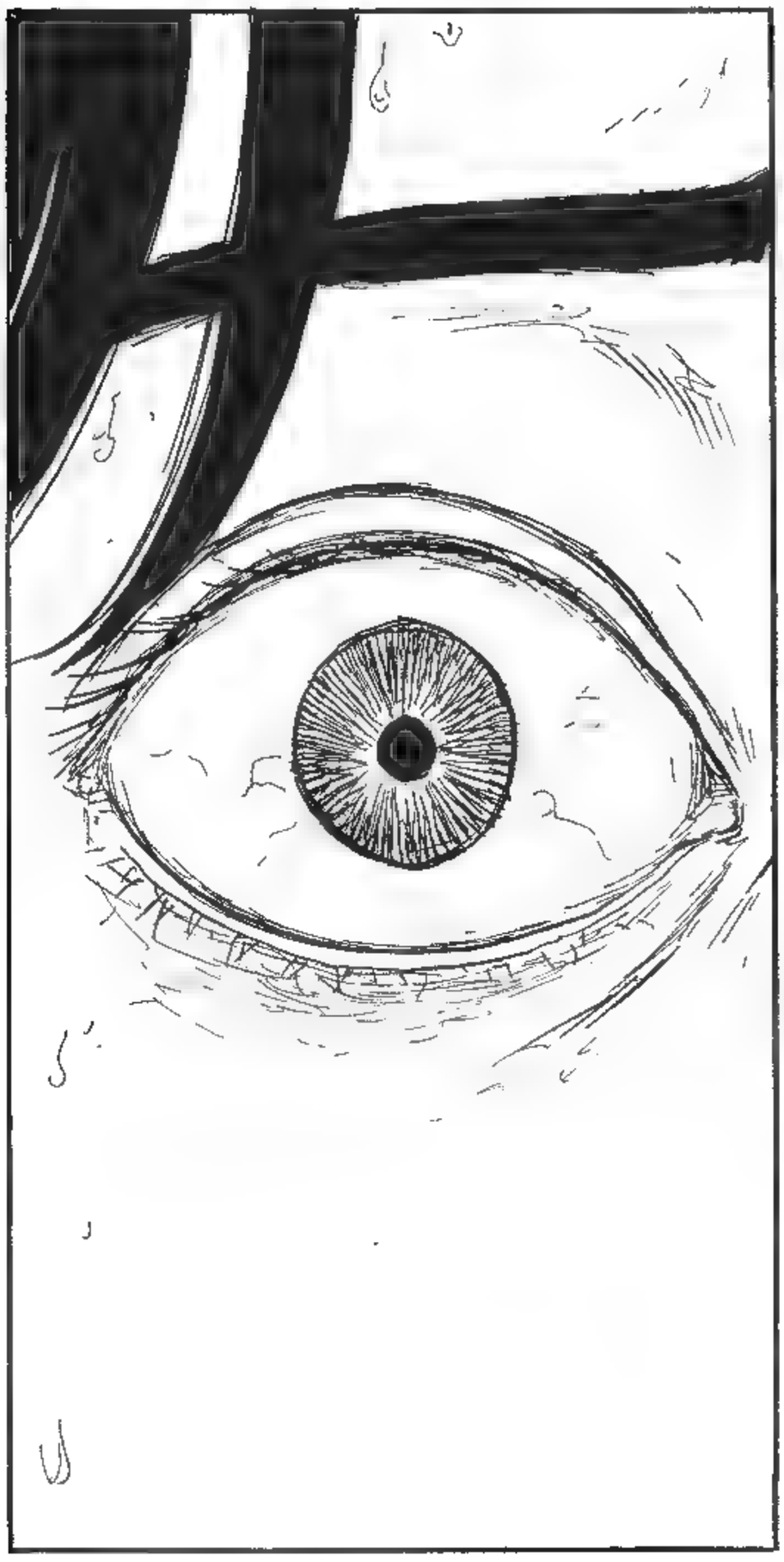

COME IN.

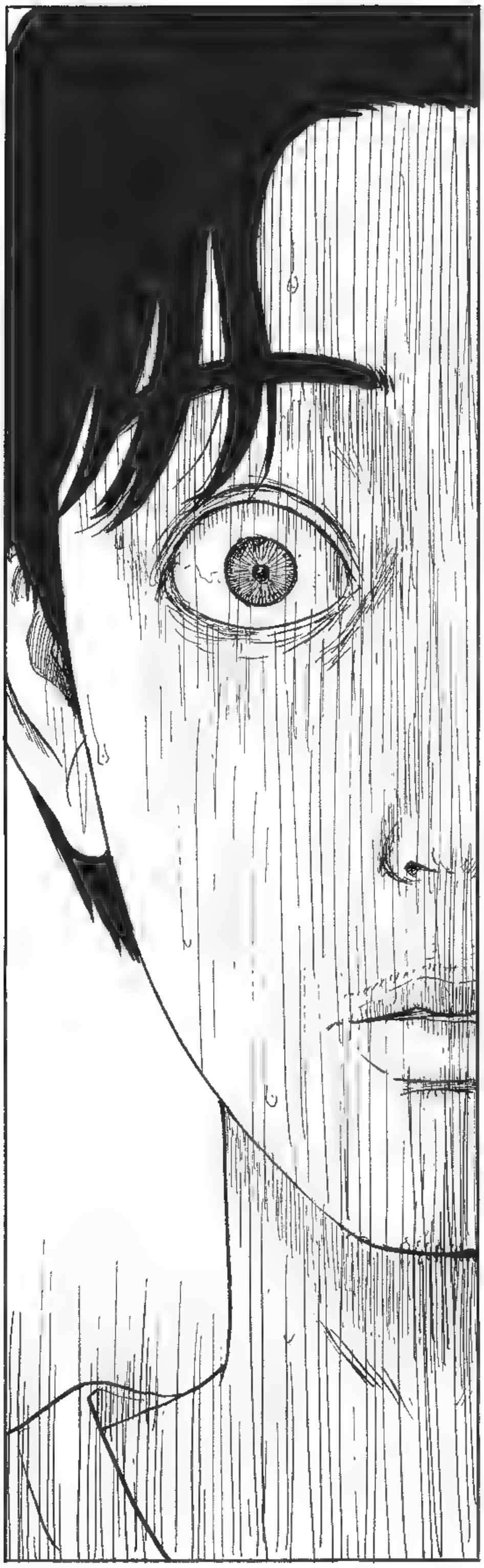
KA-
CHIK

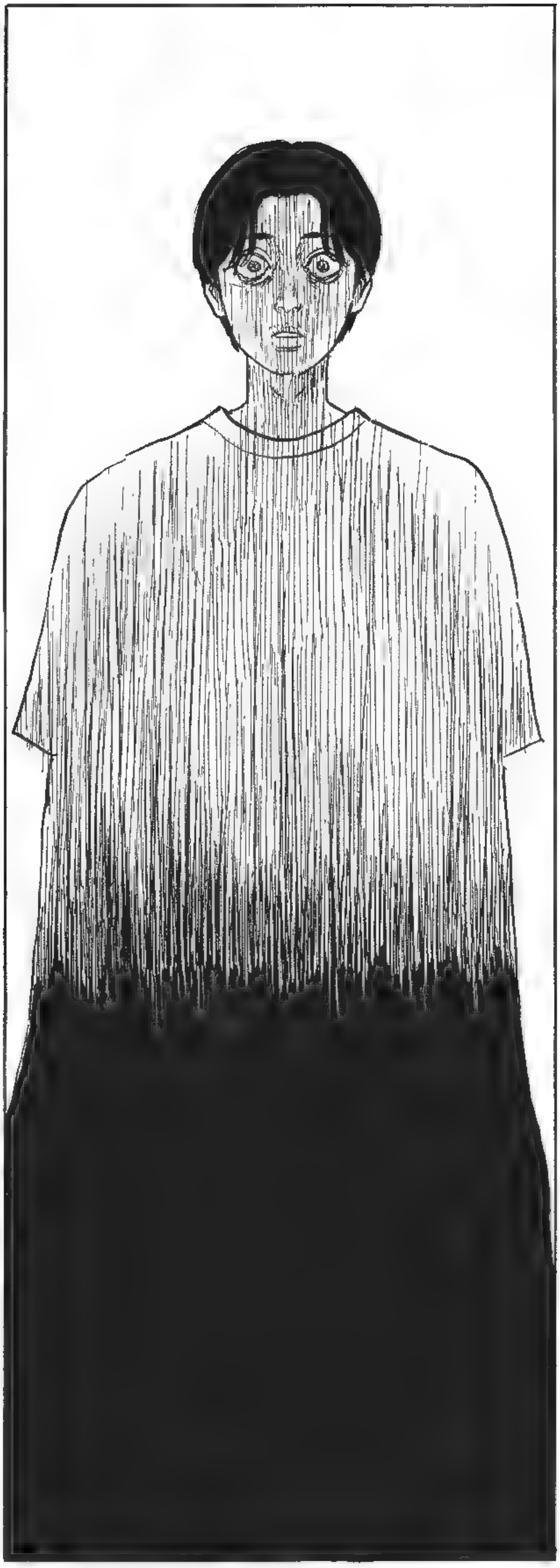




PLEASE, COME ON IN.







YOUR SON'S HERE.

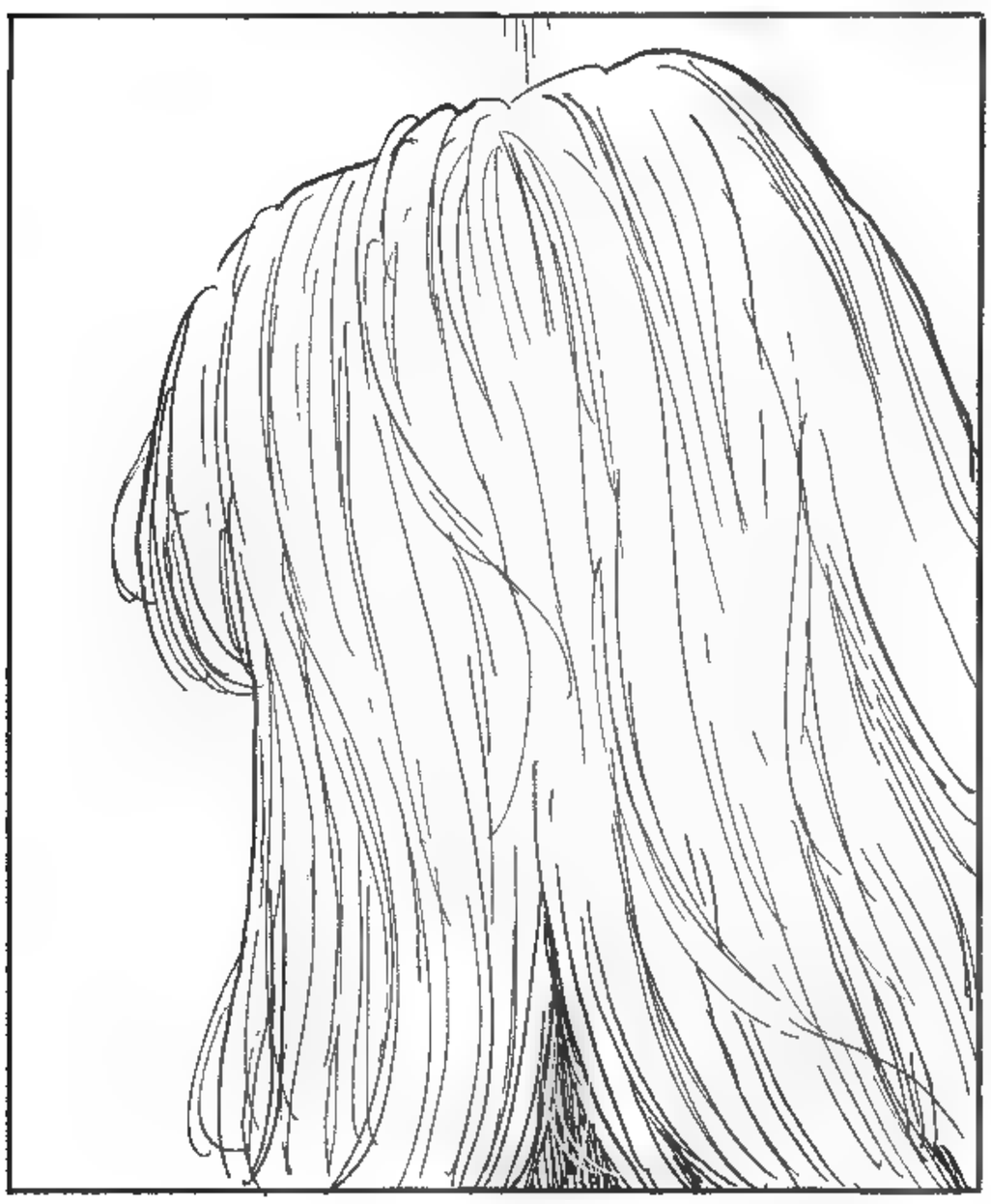
LOOK.

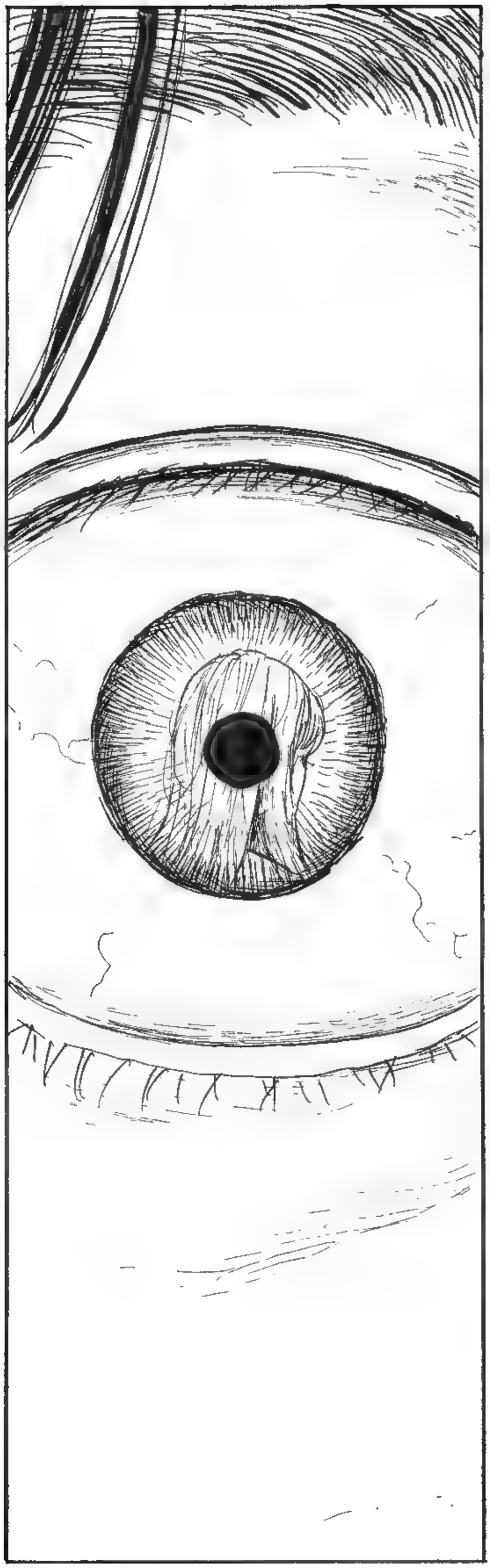
MY SON...?

...

WHO?

THERE HE IS.
LOOK,



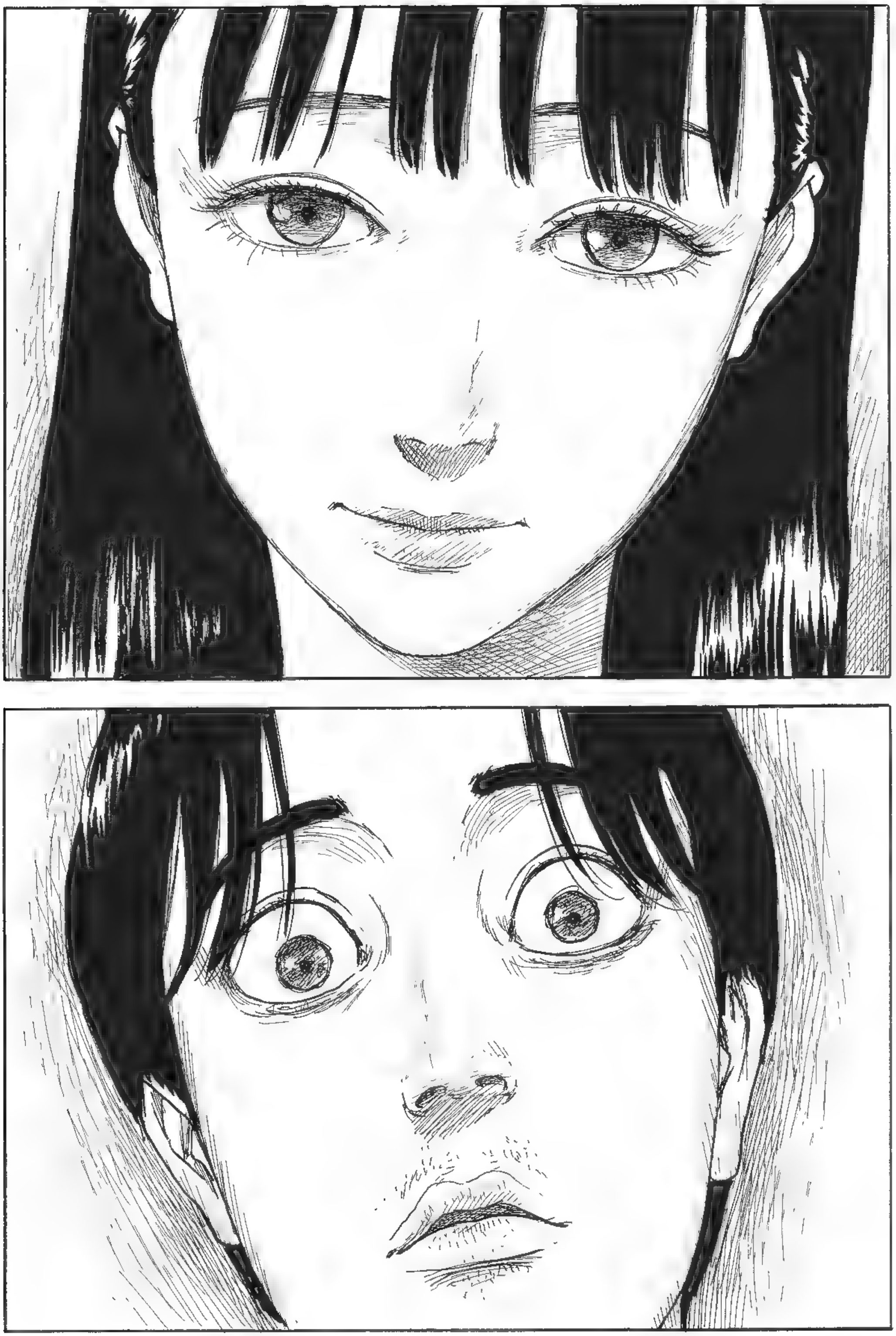


DON'T HAVE CHILDREN.

I

I
DON'T HAVE CHILDREN.

OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE KIDS?
DO I LOOK



THIS IS YOUR SON.

REALLY, THOUGH... MS. TAMIYA.

SEE? IT'S SEIICHI.

DON'T YOU... RECOGNIZE HIM?

...SEIICHI...?

OHH...

RIGHT...

IT'S NOT NIGHT ANYMORE.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

DID I... LEAVE HIM BEHIND?

WHAT DO I DO?

WHAT DO I DO...

I HAVE TO PICK HIM UP FROM KINDER-GARTEN.

I HAVE TO GO GET HIM.

AH... WAIT, MS. TAMIYA, NOT QUITE YET!

I HAVE TO GO.

IT'S OKAY.

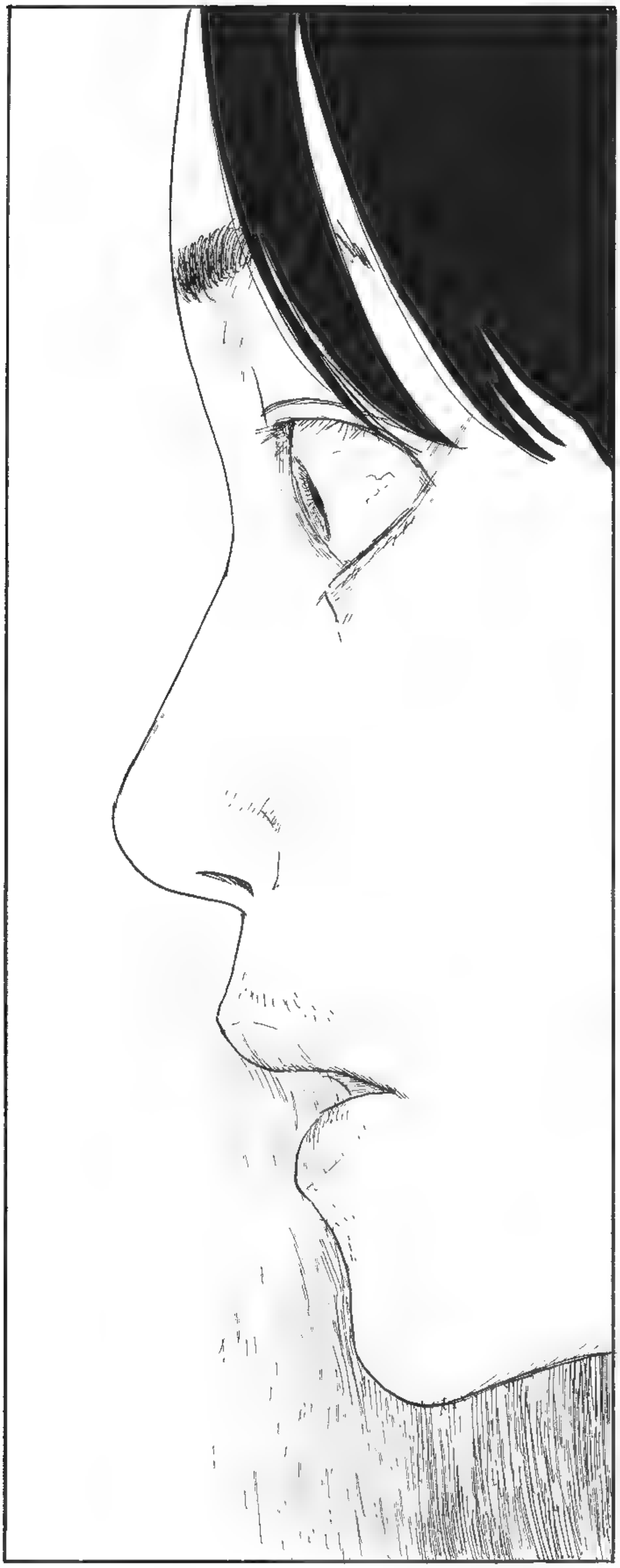
PLEASE, CALM DOWN...

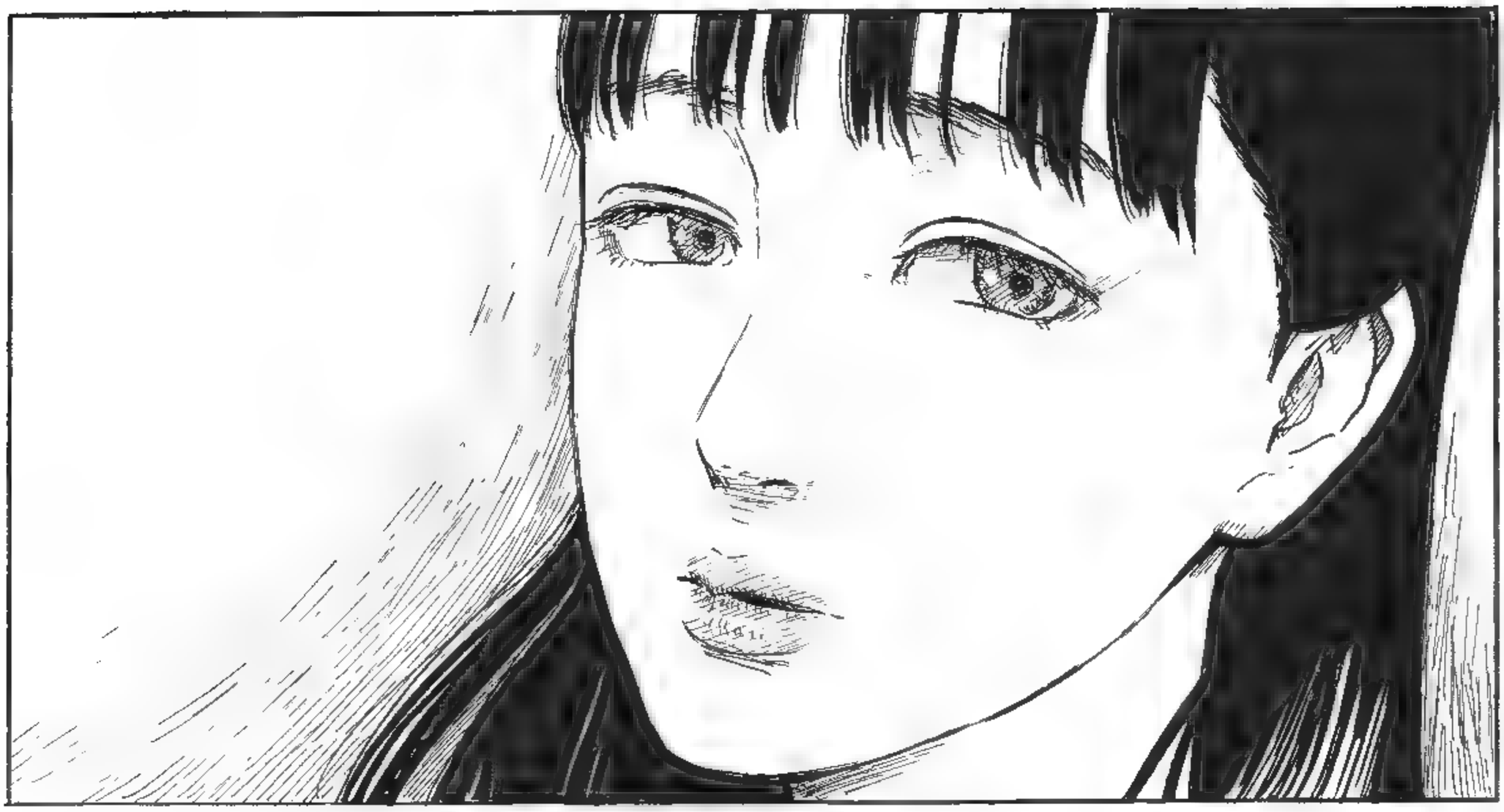
BUT...

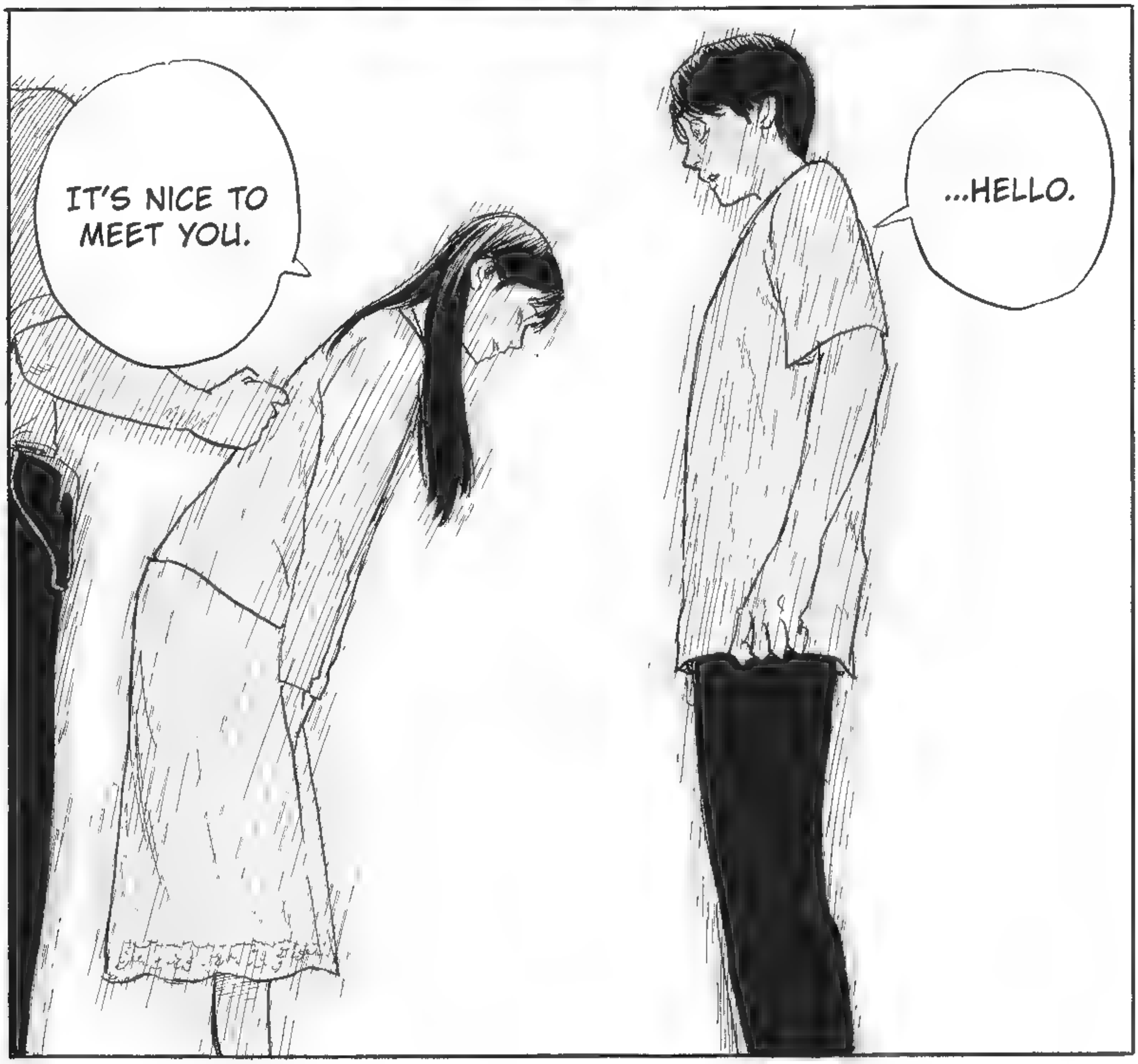
BUT...

TALK TO YOUR MOTHER.

SEIICHI.



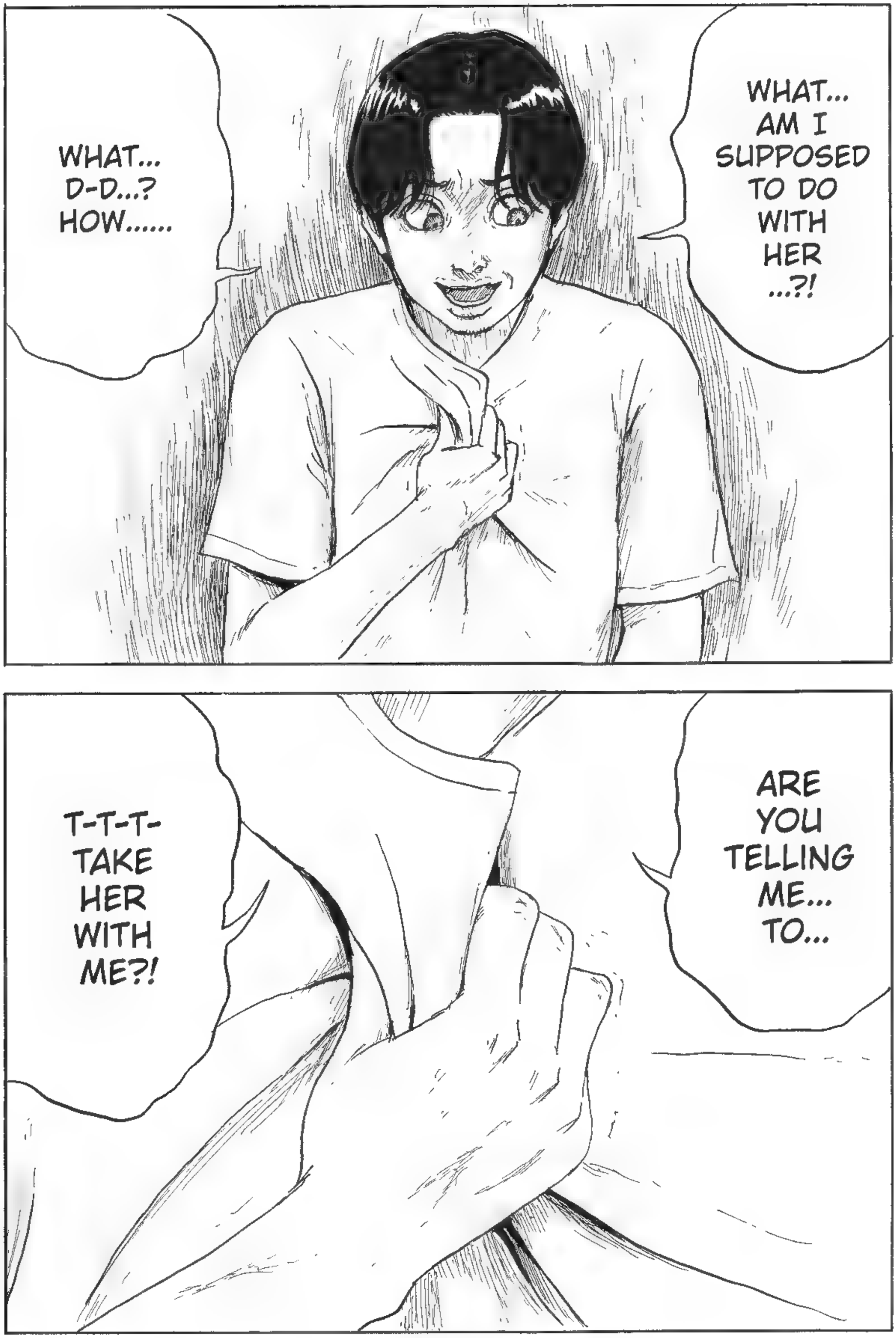



IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
...HELLO.

ISN'T IT LOVELY ?
IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY.
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

WHA-
WHA-
WHA-
WHA-
WHAT...
WH...
WHA...

SUP...
POSE...D...
TO...
AM...
I...


WHAT... D-D...? HOW.....
WHAT... AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH HER ...?!
T-T-T-TAKE HER WITH ME?!
ARE YOU TELLING ME... TO...

W-! WHAT... AM... I...

TAKE HER WHERE ...?!

HOME WITH YOU?

CAN'T YOU TAKE HER

H...
H...

H...
HOME...
?!

I...
I CAN'T
...

HER...
IN *MY*
HOME
...?!

N-
NOT A...
CHANCE
...!!

YOUR MOTHER'S BEEN THROWN OUT OF HER APARTMENT.

SHE HAS NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.

BUT, YOU SEE...

BUH... T...

UH...

...HANH ...?!

CAN I JUST PAY?!

THEN...

THERE MIGHT BE ROOM TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE LANDLORD.

AND PAY HER BACK RENT AND SUCH,

IF YOU'RE WILLING...

TO BE HER GUARAN-TOR,

IS HER RENT...?

...HOW MUCH...

THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND YEN.

THOUGH I CAN'T SAY SO FOR SURE, OF COURSE ...

UM...

IT...

SEEMS AS IF I'VE CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE?

I'M SORRY.

FINE.

...OKAY.

I'LL PAY.

IF IT'S JUST MONEY...

THERE'S STILL A LITTLE LEFT... FROM MY FATHER...

I'LL

USE THAT.

IN THAT CASE, WE'LL GO WITH YOU.

TO MS. TAMIYA'S APARTMENT.

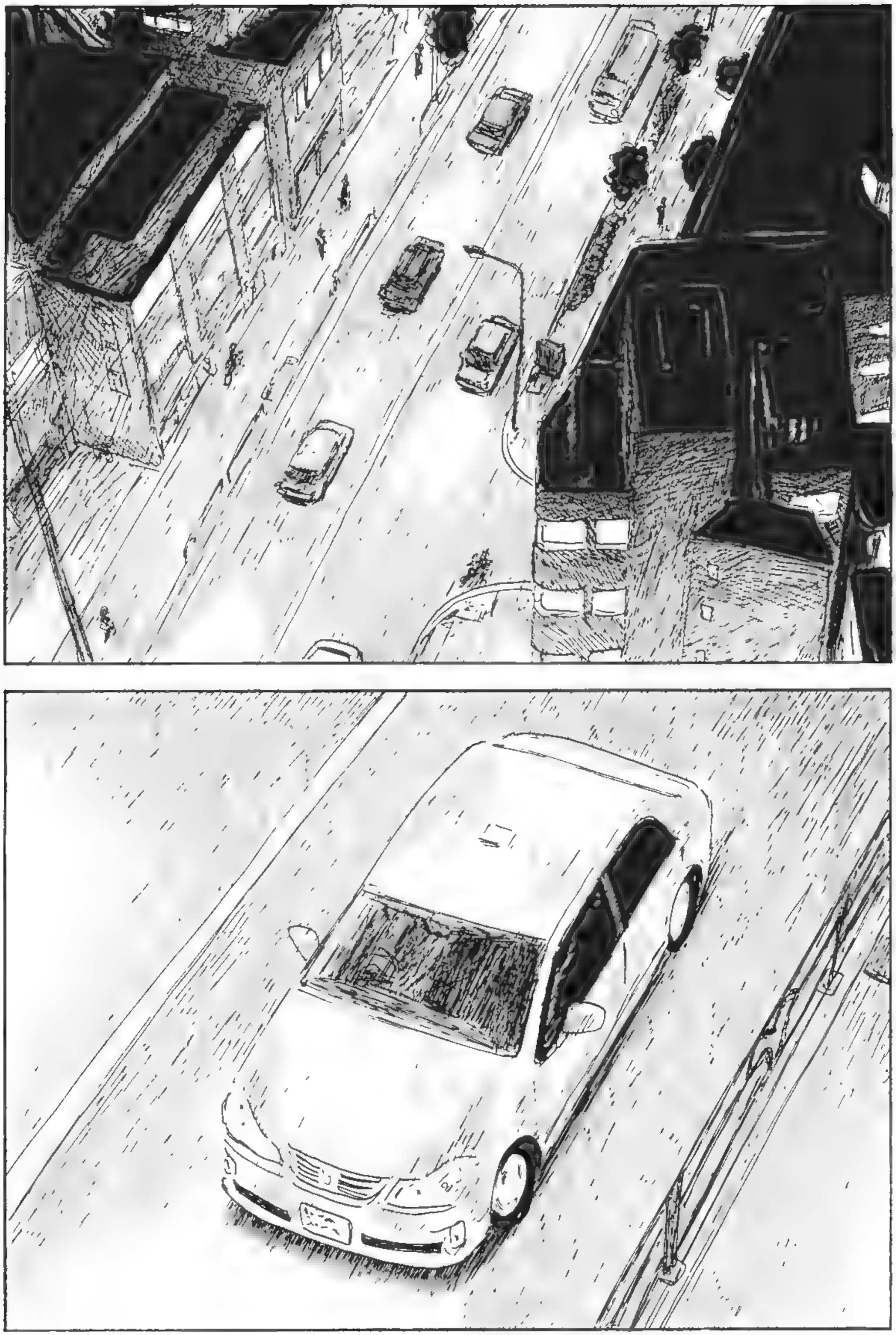
...I SEE.

OKAY, SEIKO?

OKAY?

OKAAAY.

Blood on the Tracks



'SCUSE ME,

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

WE'LL TALK TO YOUR LANDLORD.

ABOUT LETTING YOU LIVE THERE AGAIN.

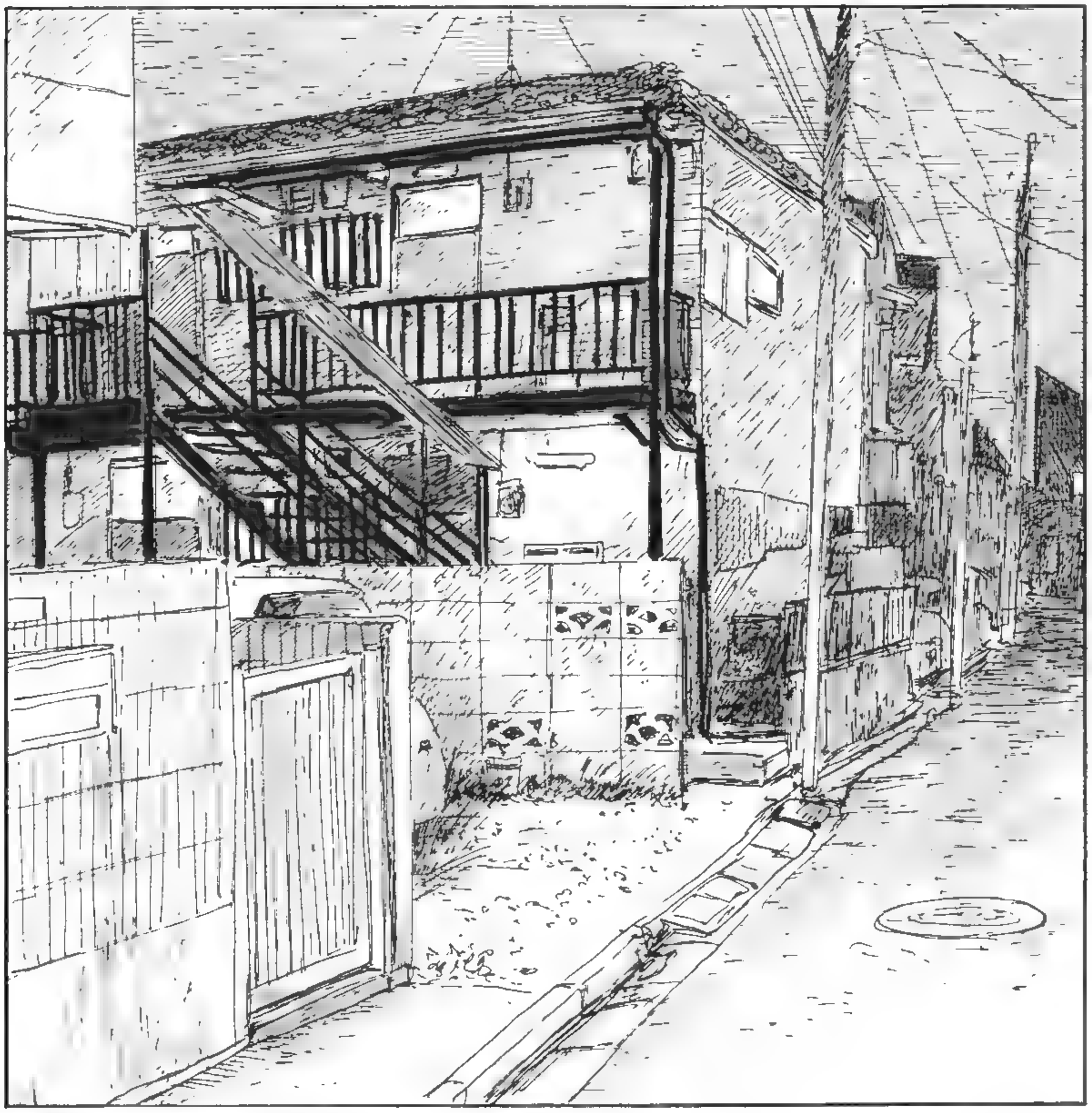
TO YOUR APARTMENT, MS. TAMIYA.

...HOME?

I GET TO GO...

HOME ...?

THIS IS THE PLACE.



THE LANDLORD LIVES ACROSS THE STREET.
LET'S GO.

HELLO-O-O.

ピンポーン
DING-DONG

TUMP
とん
TUMP
とん

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN,

ESPE-CIALLY SO LATE.

YES?

WELL, YOU SEE,

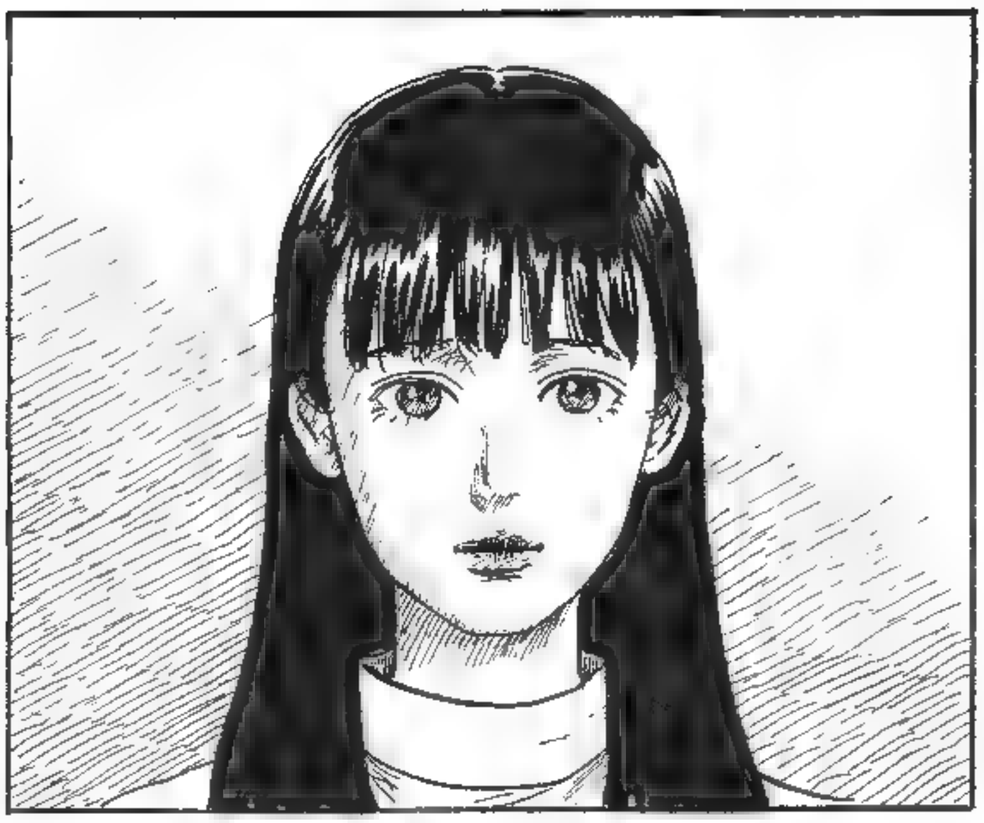
MS. TAMIYA'S SON IS HERE.

...

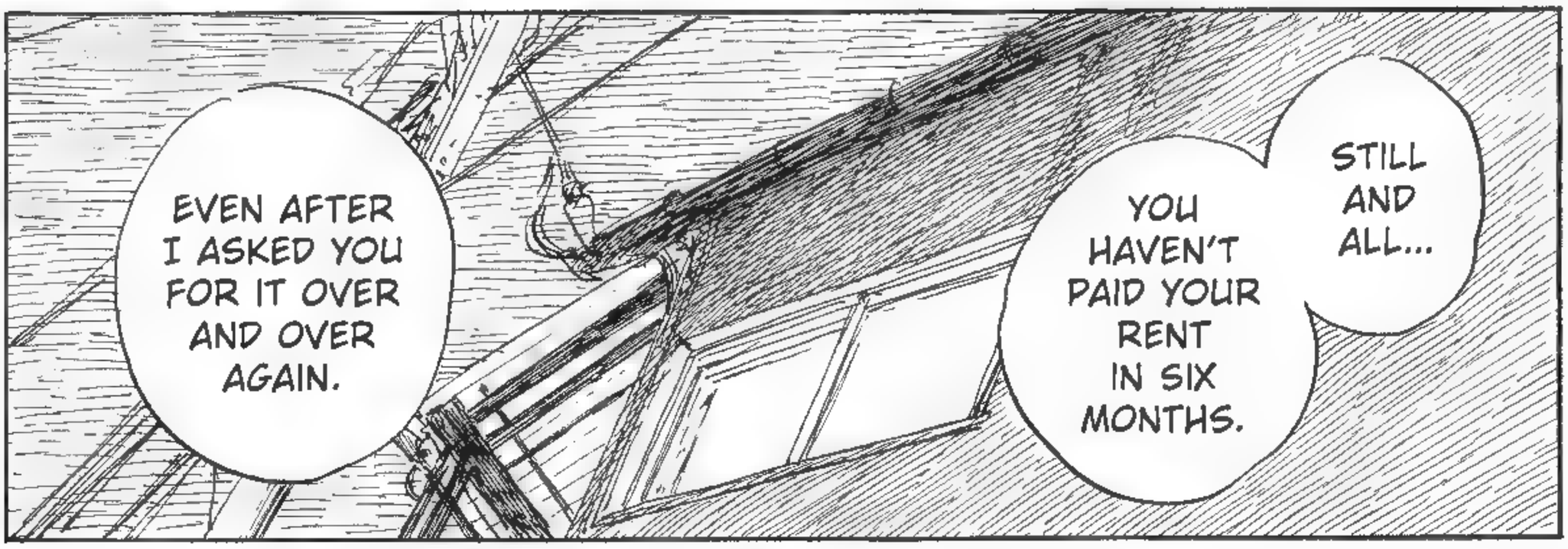
WHAT IS IT?

HE SAYS HE'S WILLING TO BE HER GUARANTOR,

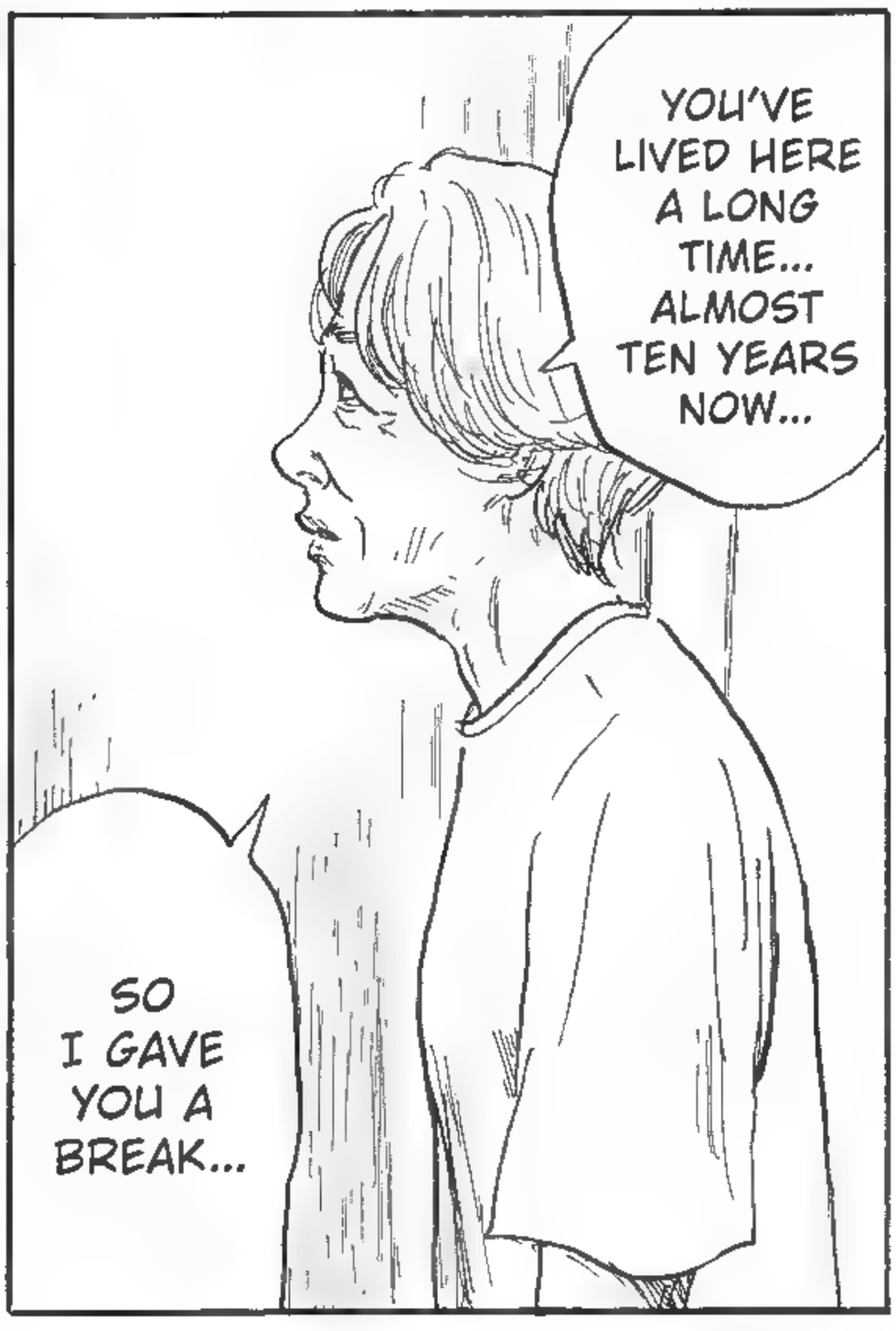
SO DO YOU THINK YOU COULD YOU LET HER STAY A WHILE LONGER?

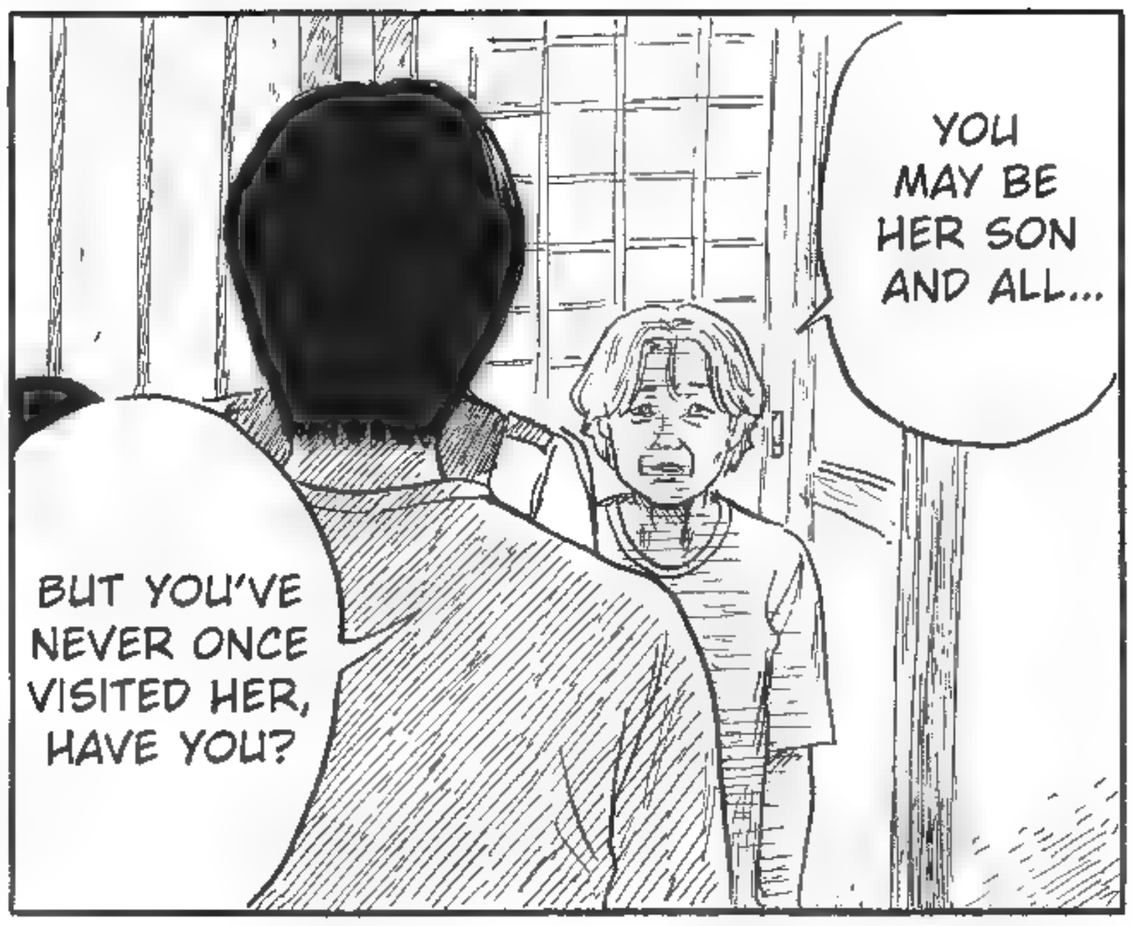


HUH...
YOU HAVE A SON?


EVEN AFTER I ASKED YOU FOR IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR RENT IN SIX MONTHS.
STILL AND ALL...

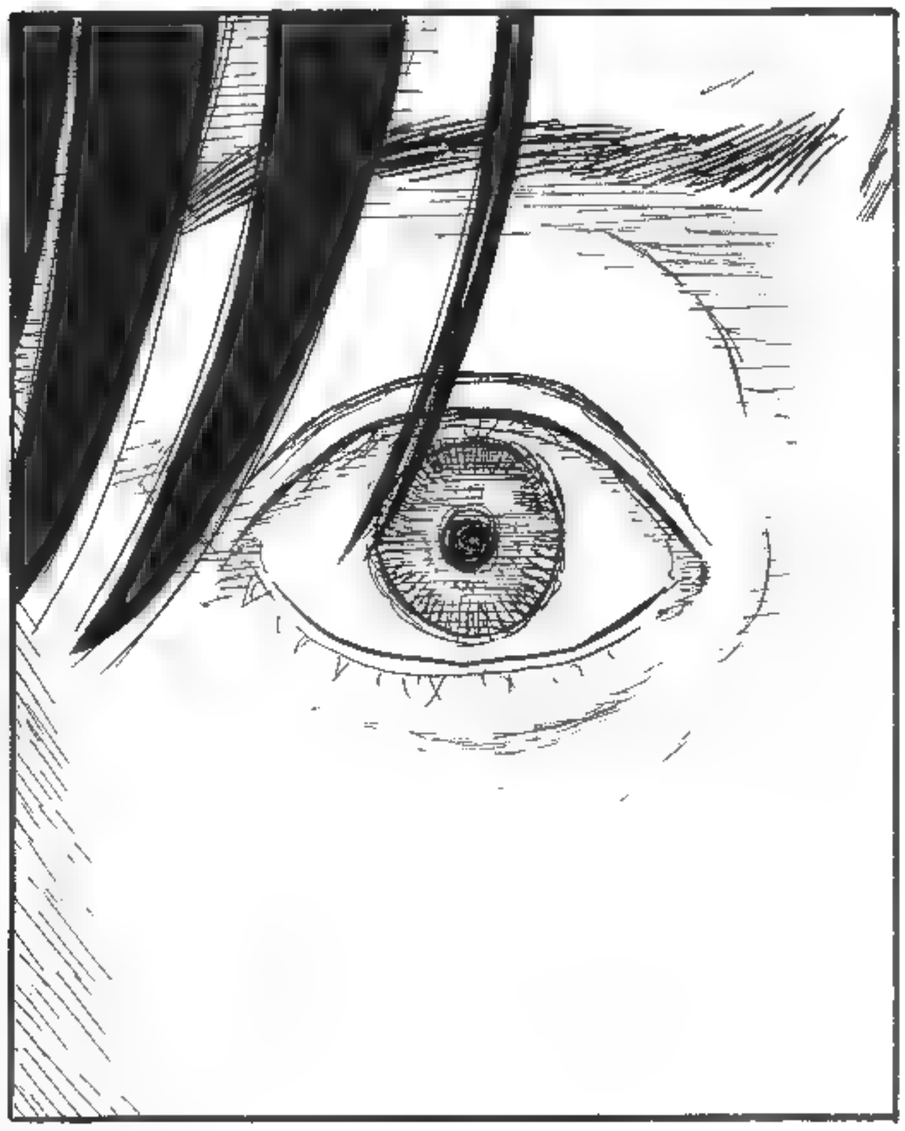
BUT I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR FUN, YOU KNOW.

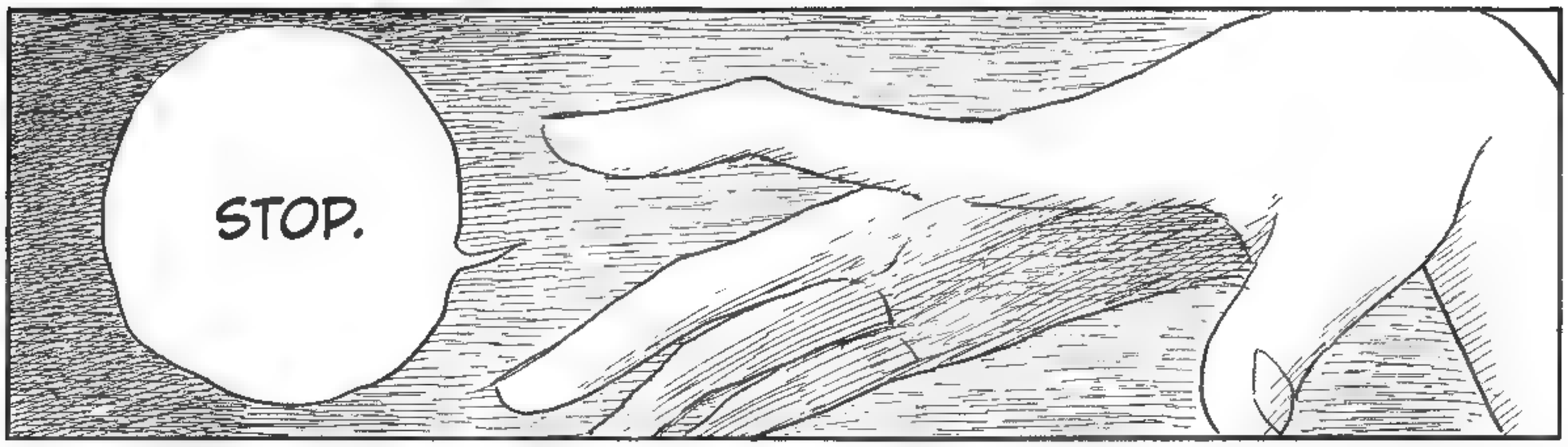

YOU'VE LIVED HERE A LONG TIME... ALMOST TEN YEARS NOW...
SO I GAVE YOU A BREAK...


YOU MAY BE HER SON AND ALL...
BUT YOU'VE NEVER ONCE VISITED HER, HAVE YOU?

CAN'T SHE GO AND LIVE WITH YOU?
CAN I REALLY COUNT ON YOU TO BE HER GUARANTOR ?
WHAT DO YOU DO FOR WORK?

BUT... HE SAYS HE'LL DO IT...
RIGHT?




STOP.

I DON'T DESERVE THIS.
IT'S OKAY.

FOR ME TO END UP HOMELESS.
IT WOULD BE JUST RIGHT

BESIDES,

I CAN'T IMPOSE LIKE THAT

ON SOMEONE I DON'T EVEN KNOW.

HUH?

THEN HE'S NOT YOUR SON?

IS SHE OKAY? SOMETHING SEEMS A LITTLE OFF...

CONFUSED ...?

MS. TAMIYA SEEMS A LITTLE... CONFUSED.

UH... SORRY, MA'AM.

I'LL BE HER GUARANTOR.

I'LL DO IT, ALL RIGHT?

AND I'LL PAY AS MUCH IN ADVANCE AS I CAN.

I'LL PAY HER BACK RENT,

TAKE CARE OF IT ?

WILL THAT

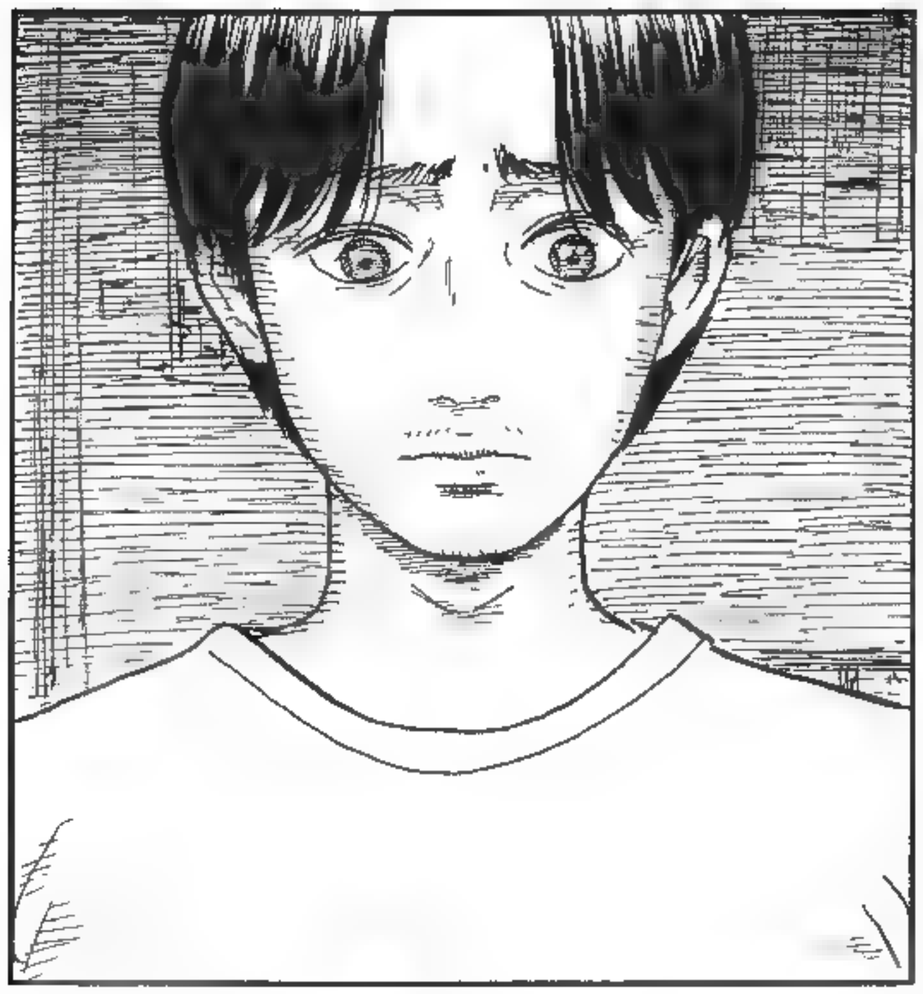
YOU DON'T HAVE TO...

...PLEASE...

REALLY...

...

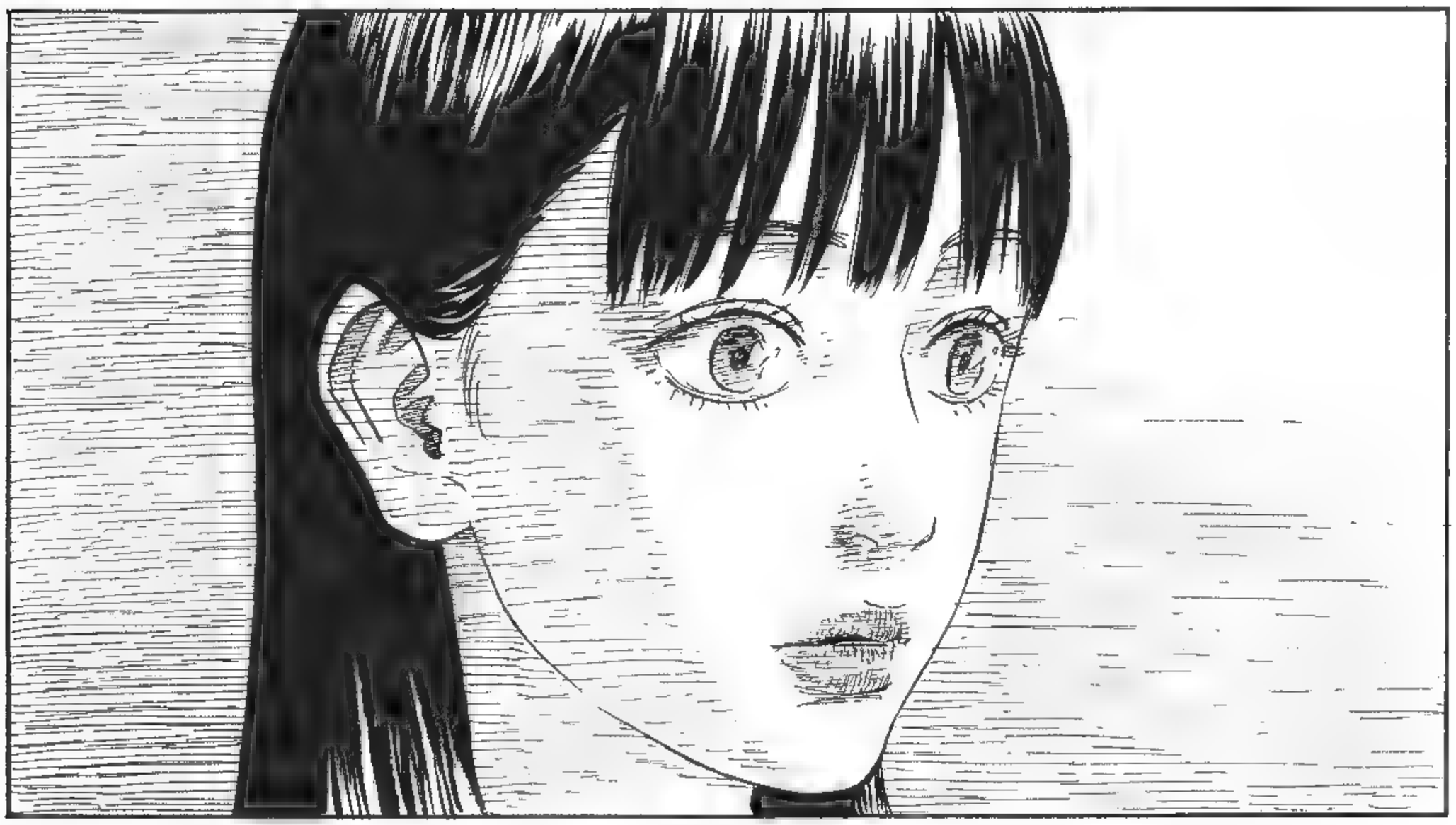
WELL, MA'AM?



I SUPPOSE SHE CAN STAY...
WELL... AS LONG AS YOU FOLLOW THROUGH ...

ISN'T THAT NICE, SEIKO ?

THAT'S GREAT!
THANK YOU!



HERE'S THE KEY.

OKAY,

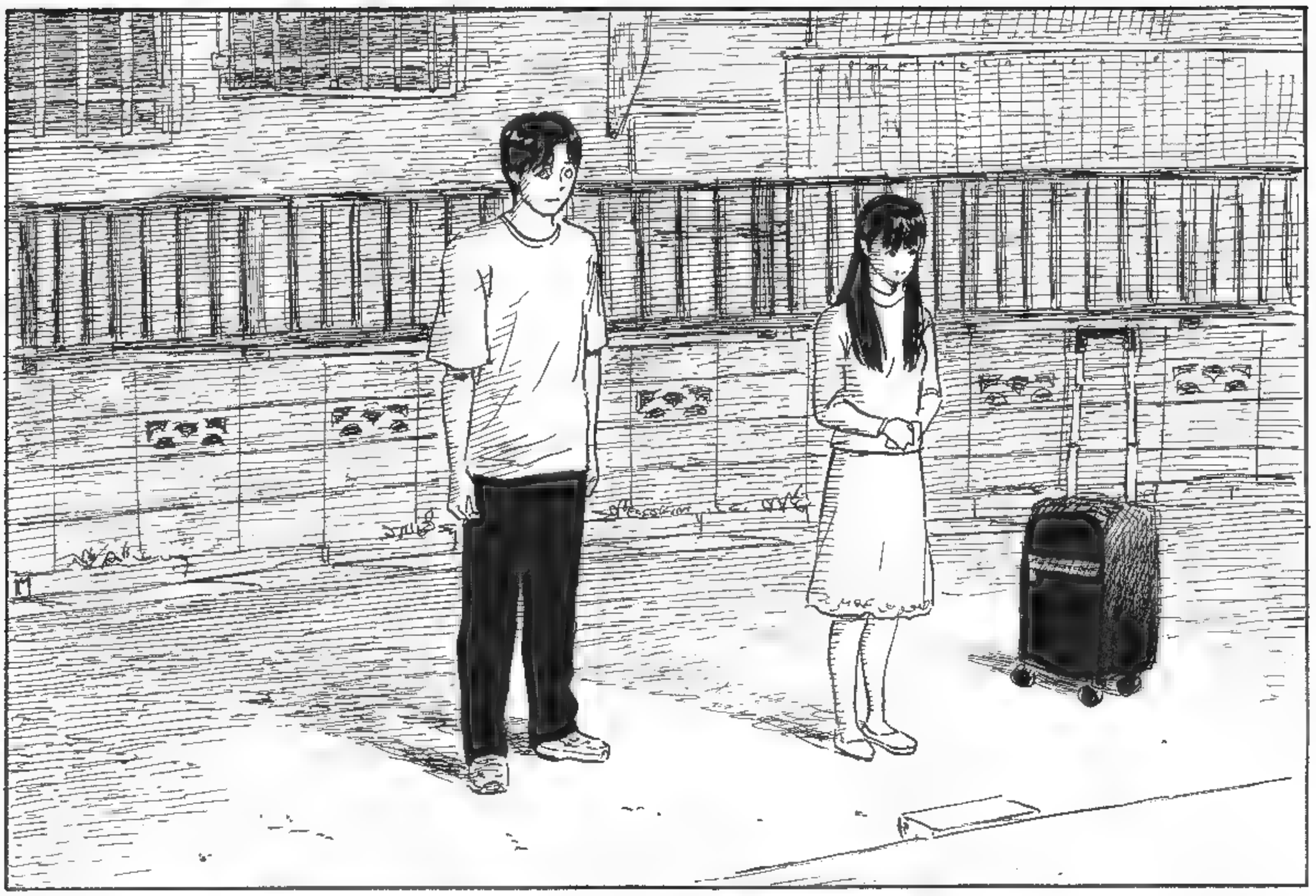
SHUMP

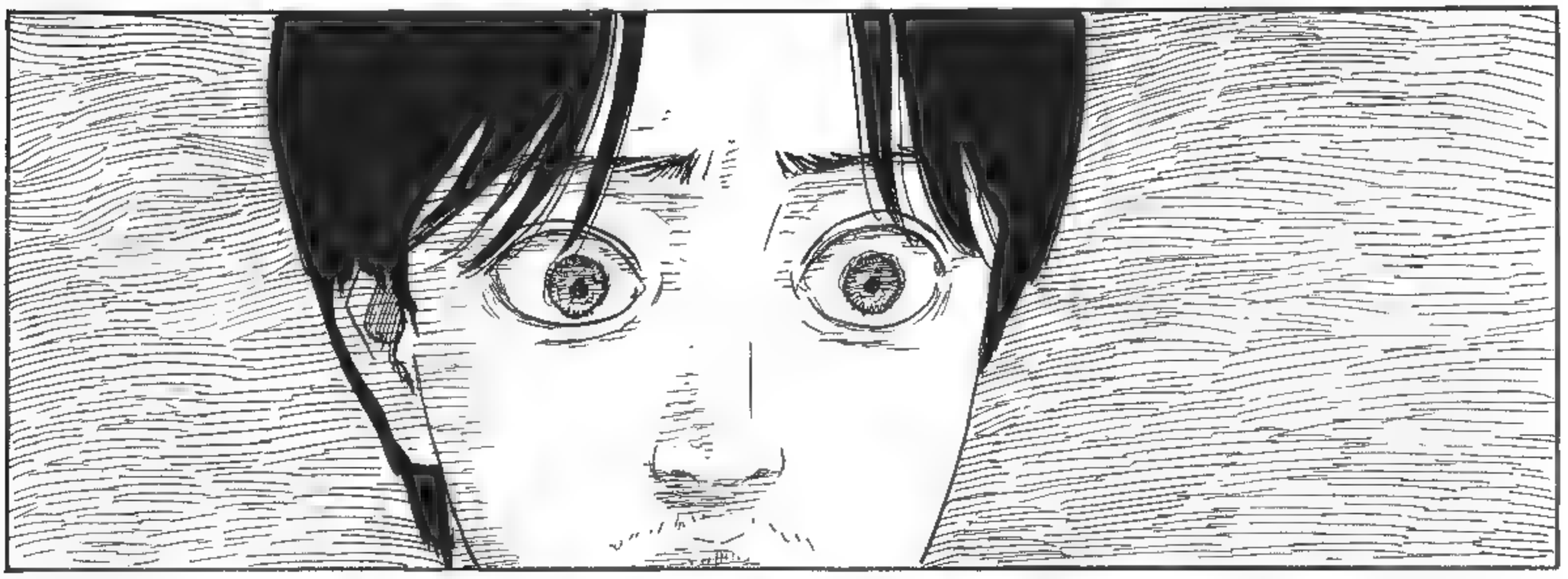
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

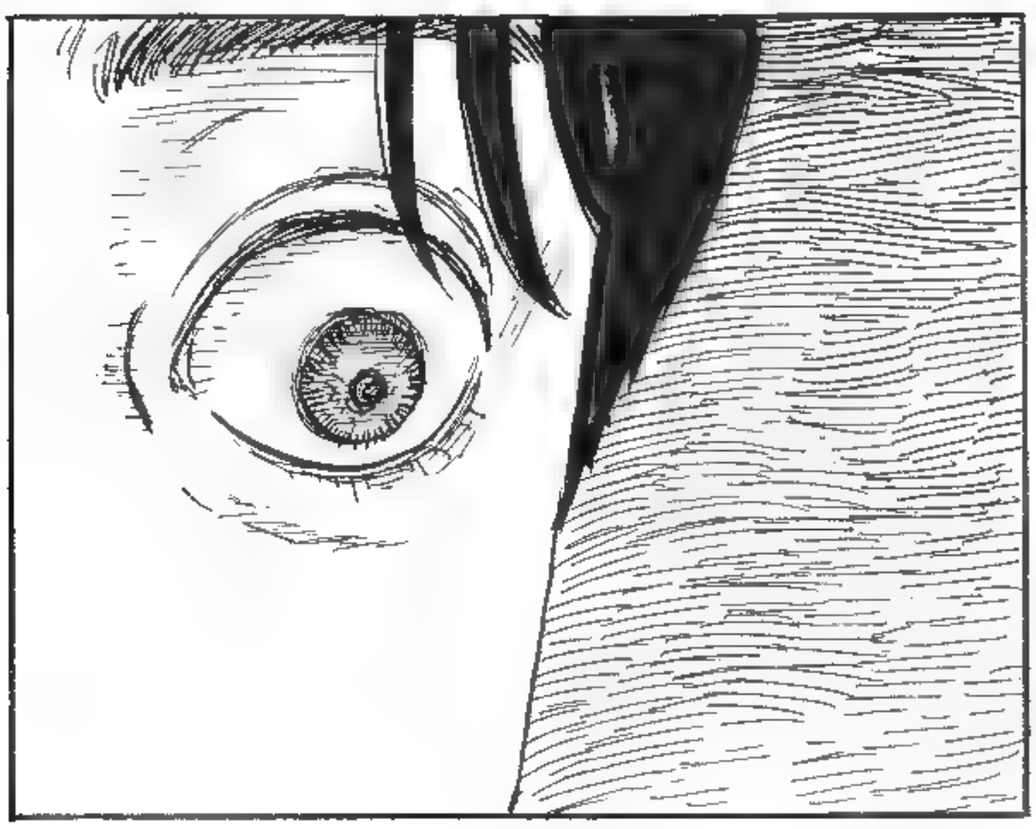
MAKE SURE YOU WIRE THE MONEY ASAP.

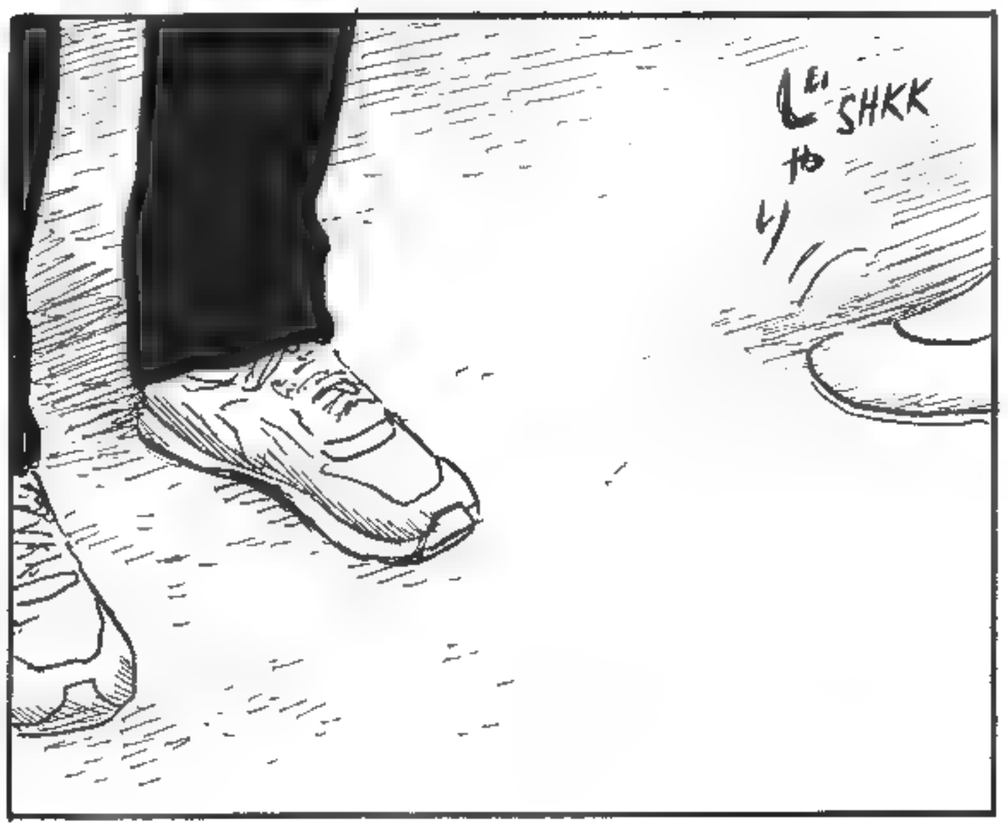
WE'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT.

ALL RIGHT.



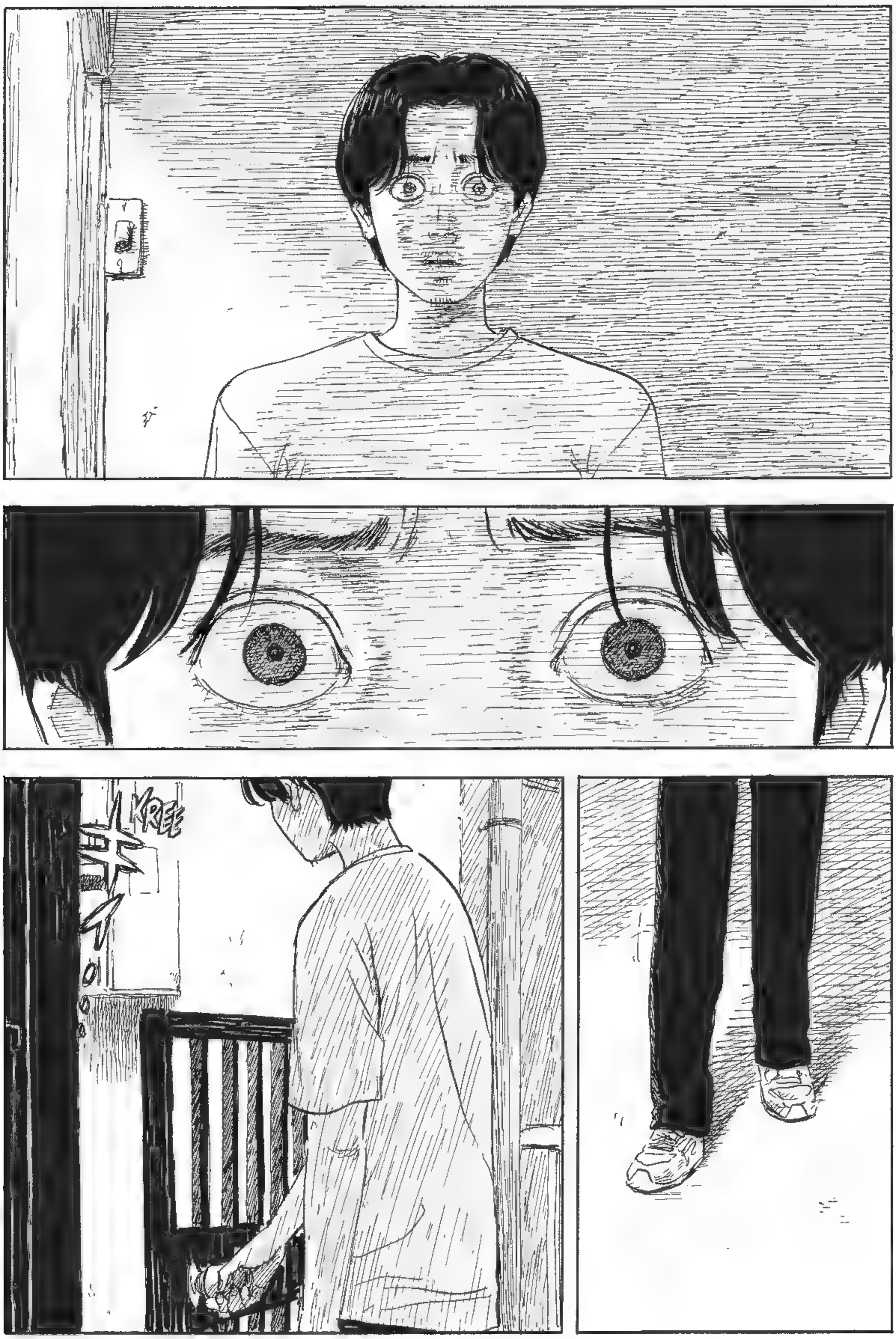


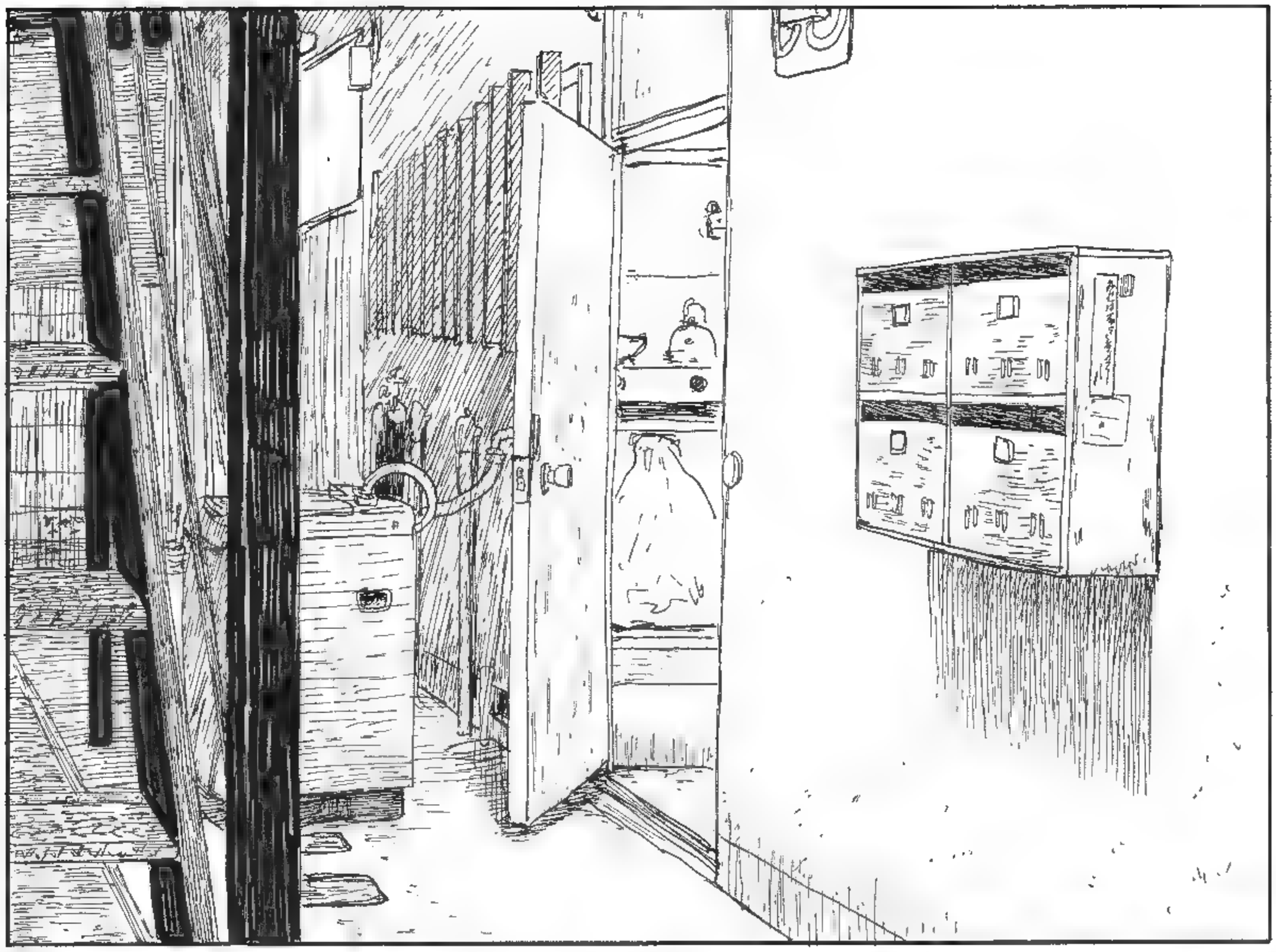


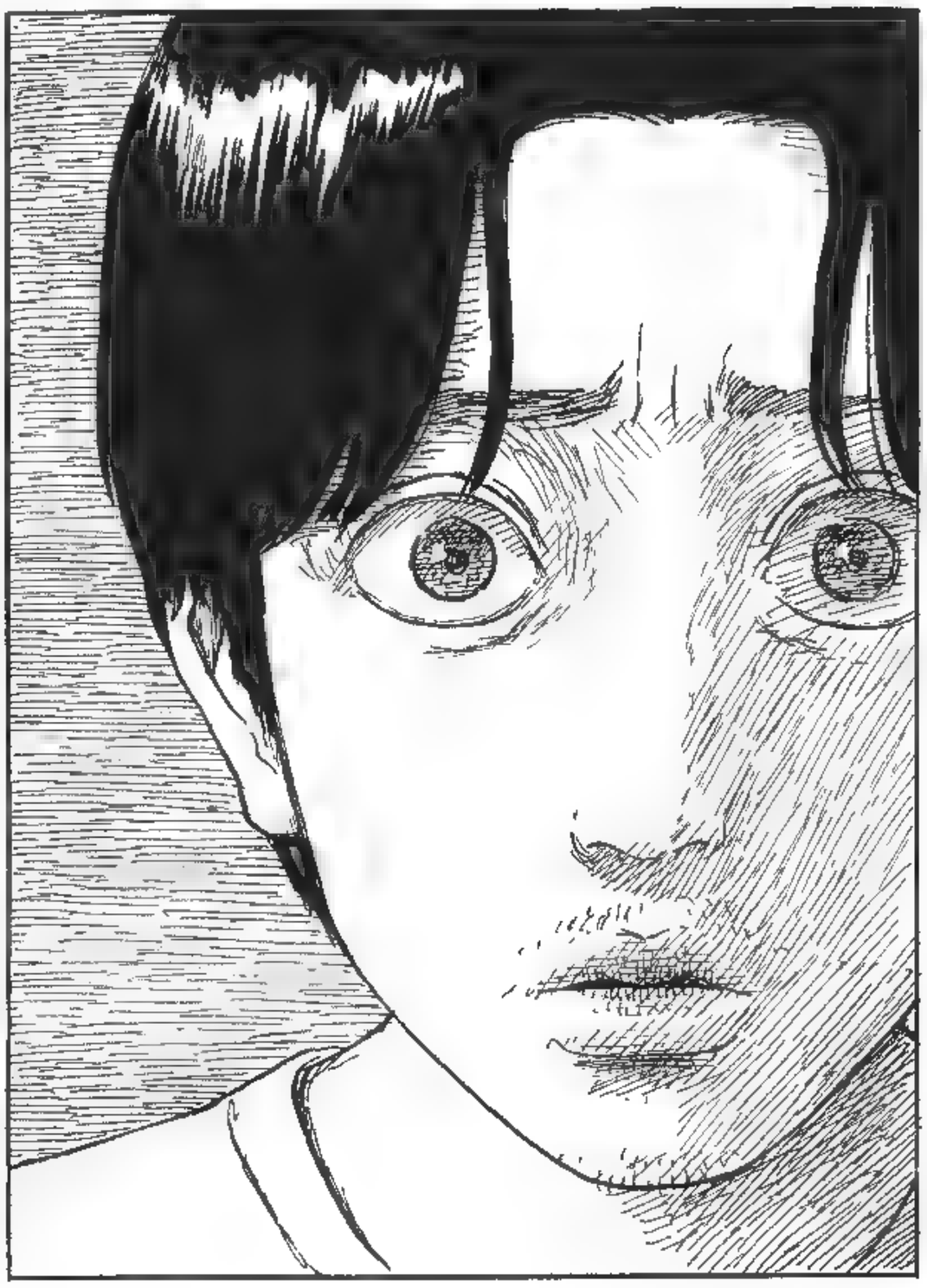

SHKK

RATTLE
RATTLE
KREE
KA-CHIK

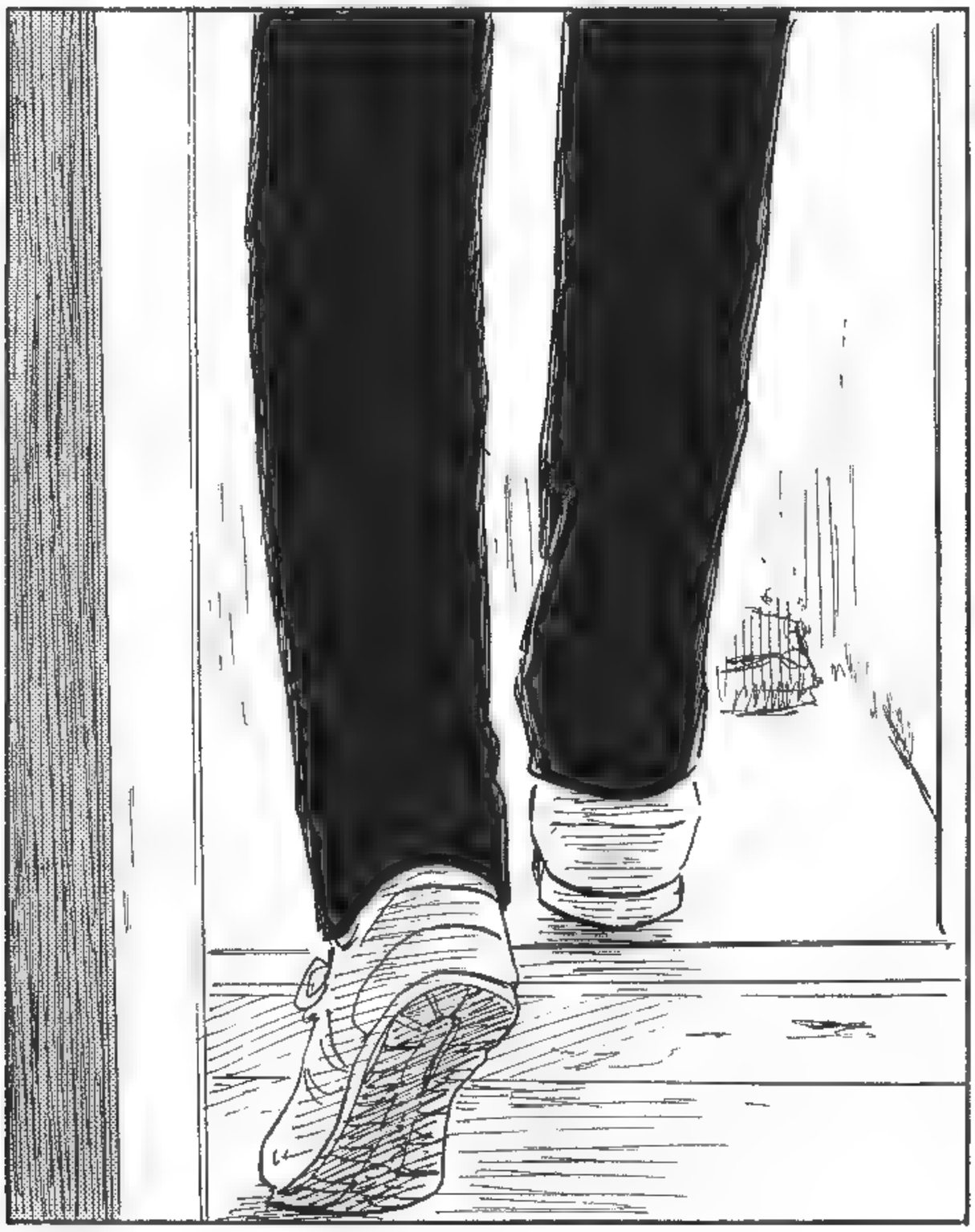
HAVE SOME TEA BEFORE YOU GO.
PLEASE,

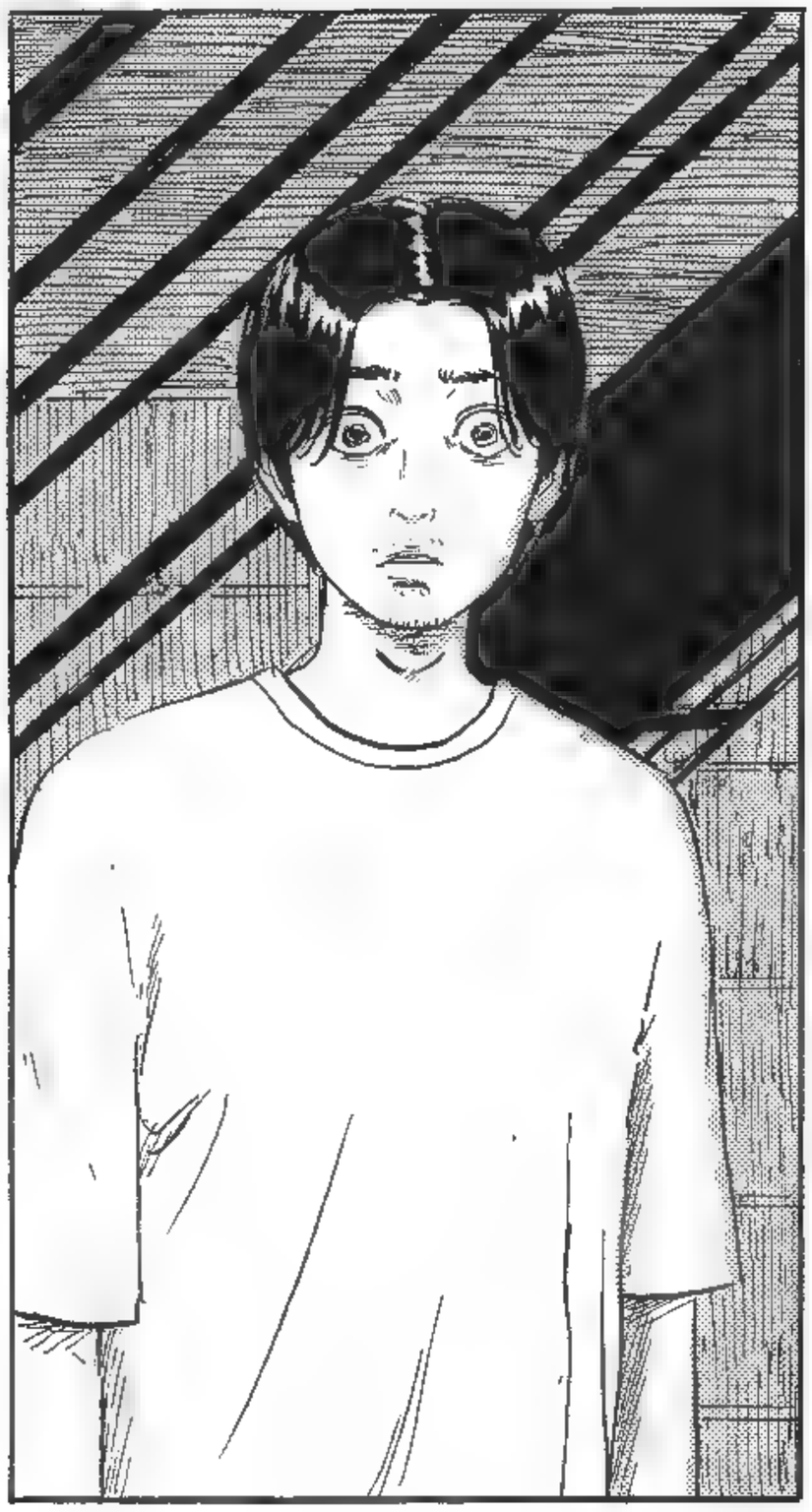

KREE





COME IN.





CREAK
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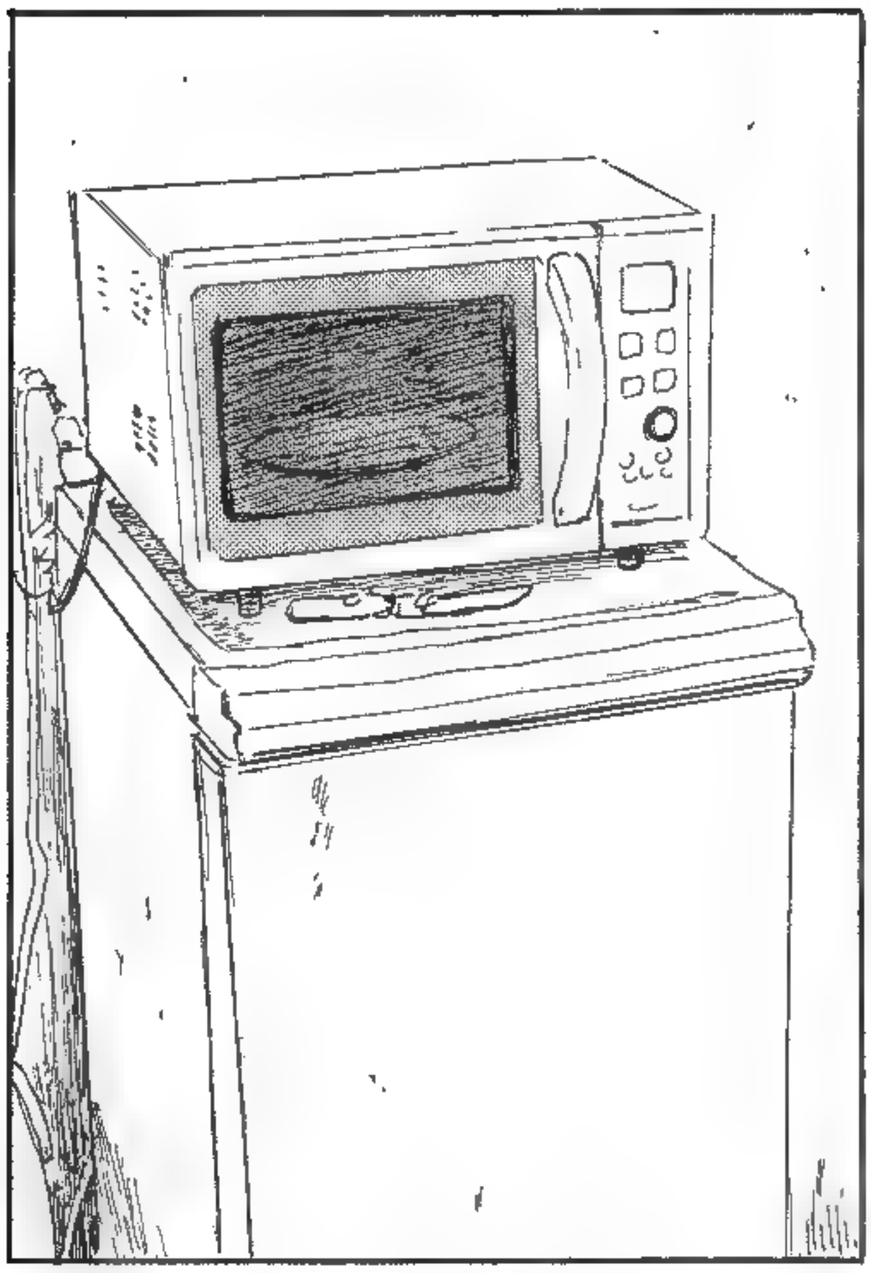
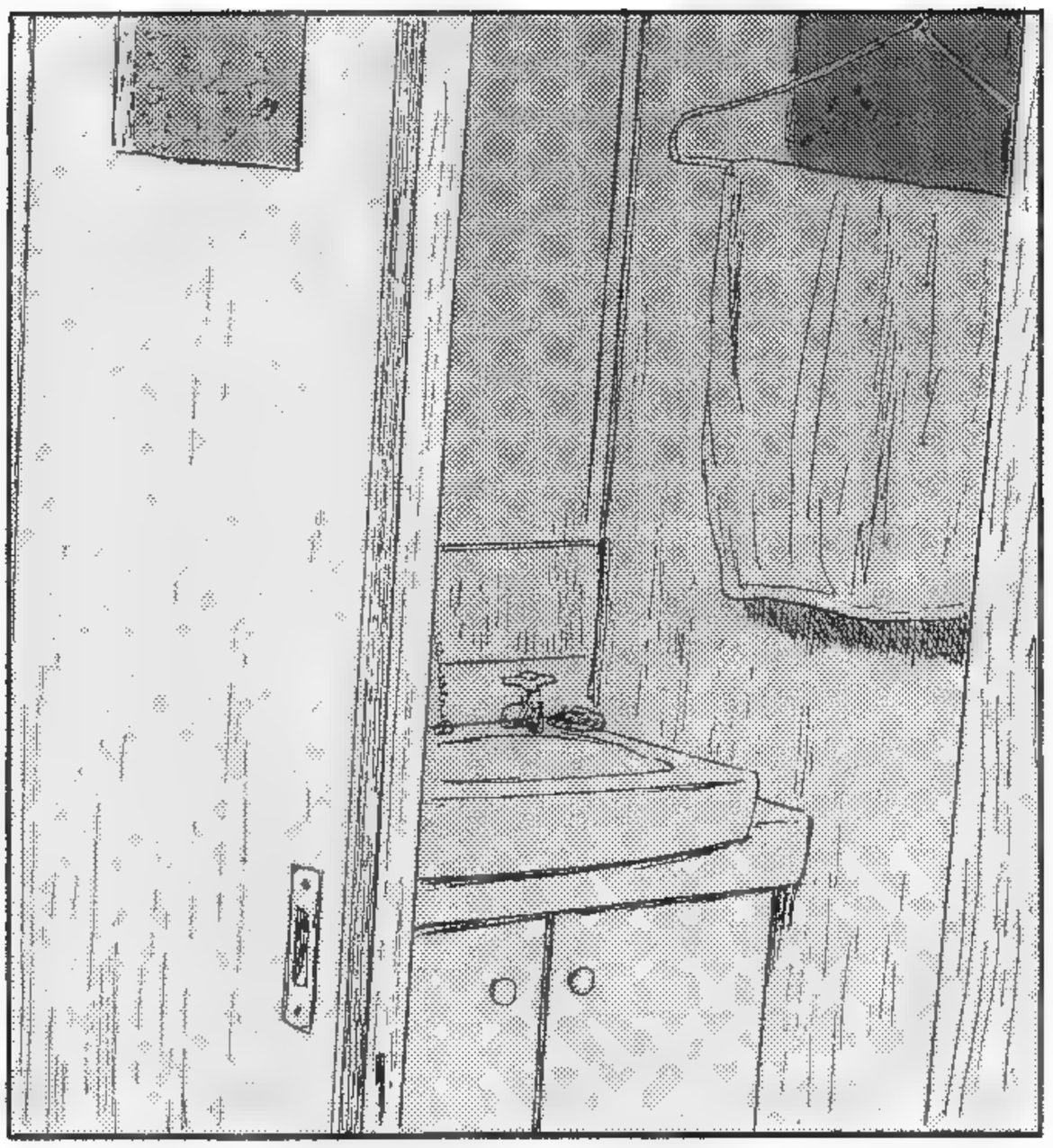
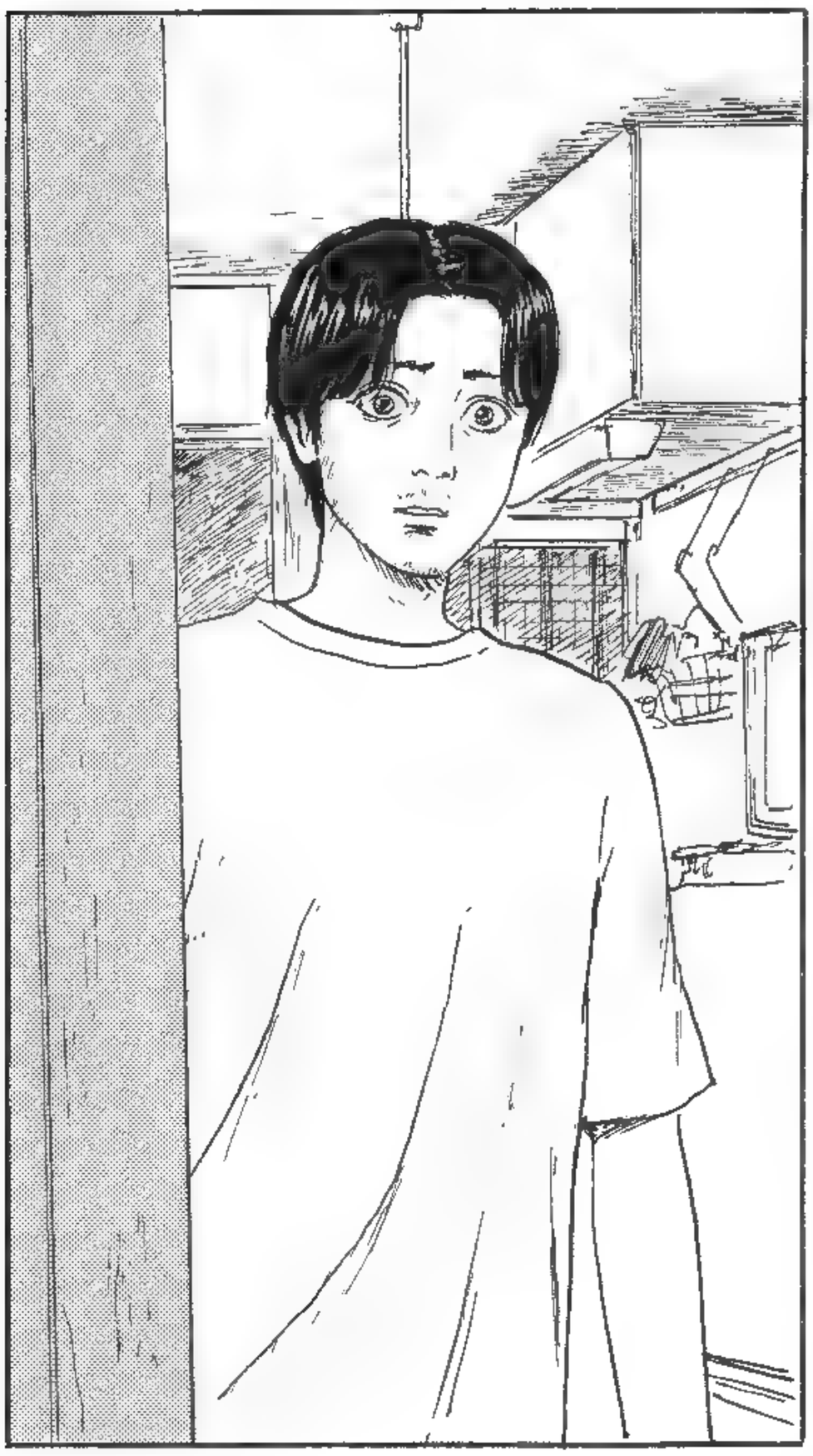


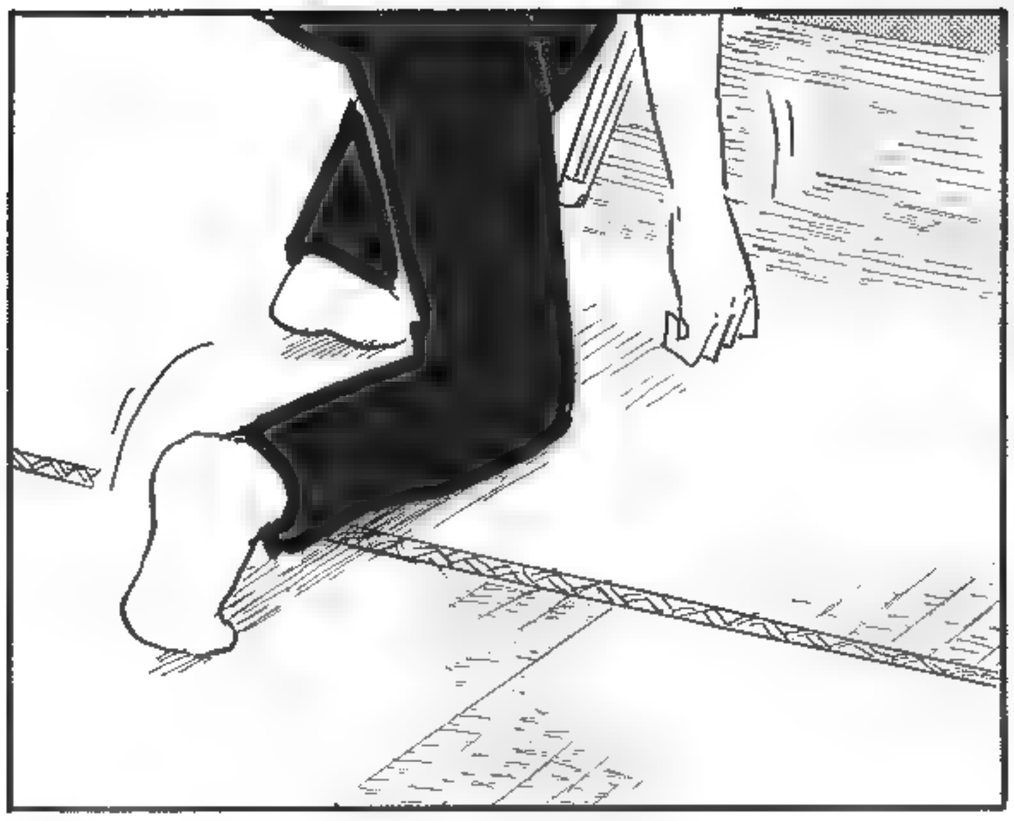


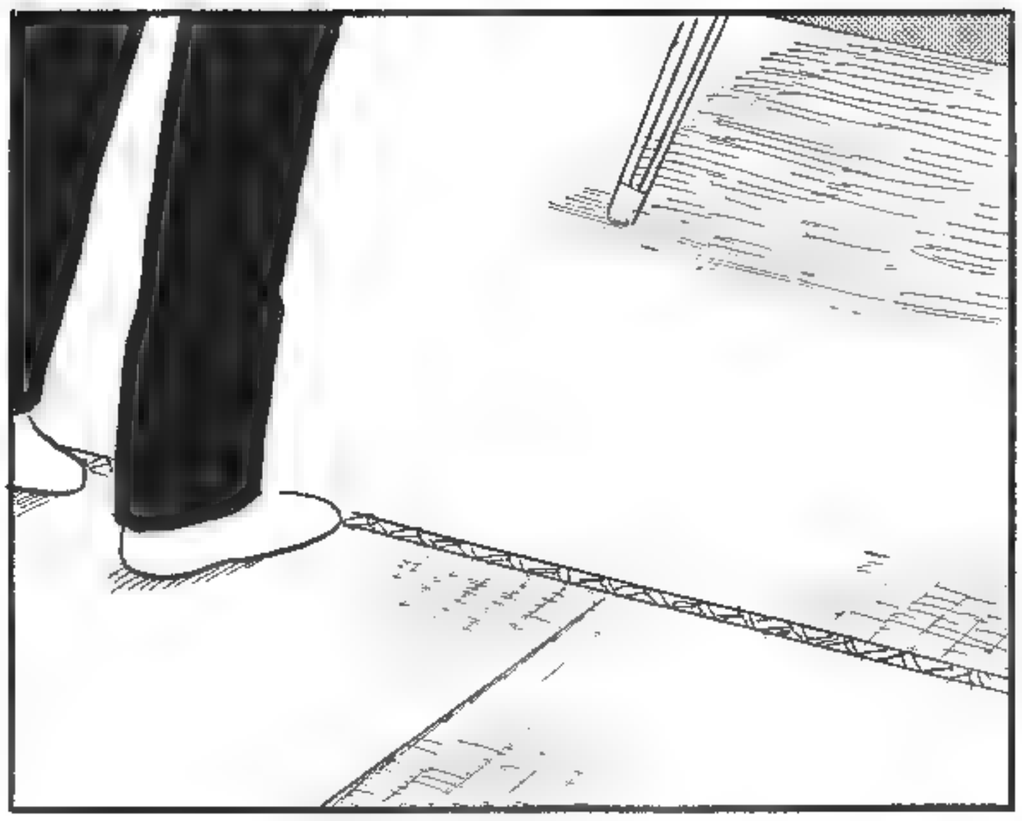


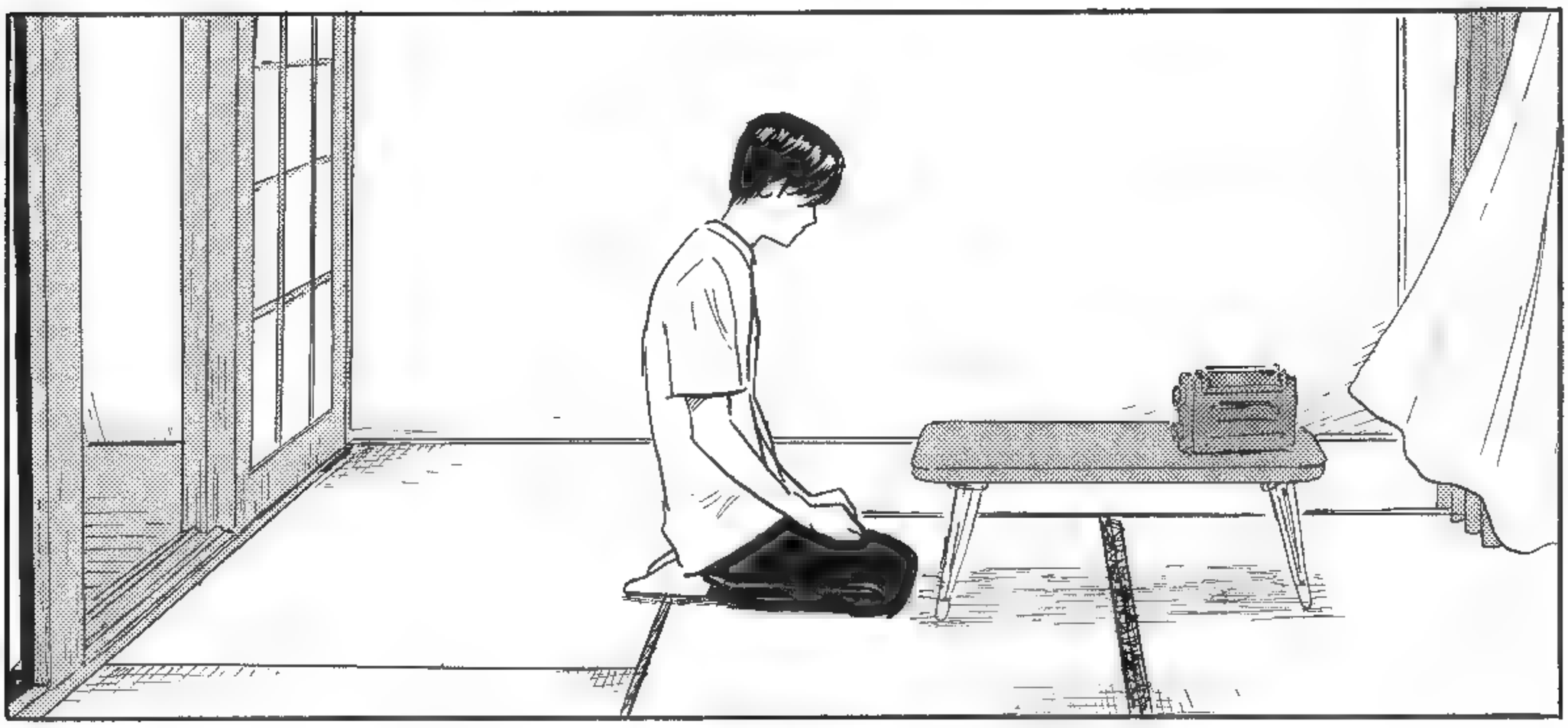
I'LL GO MAKE THE TEA.

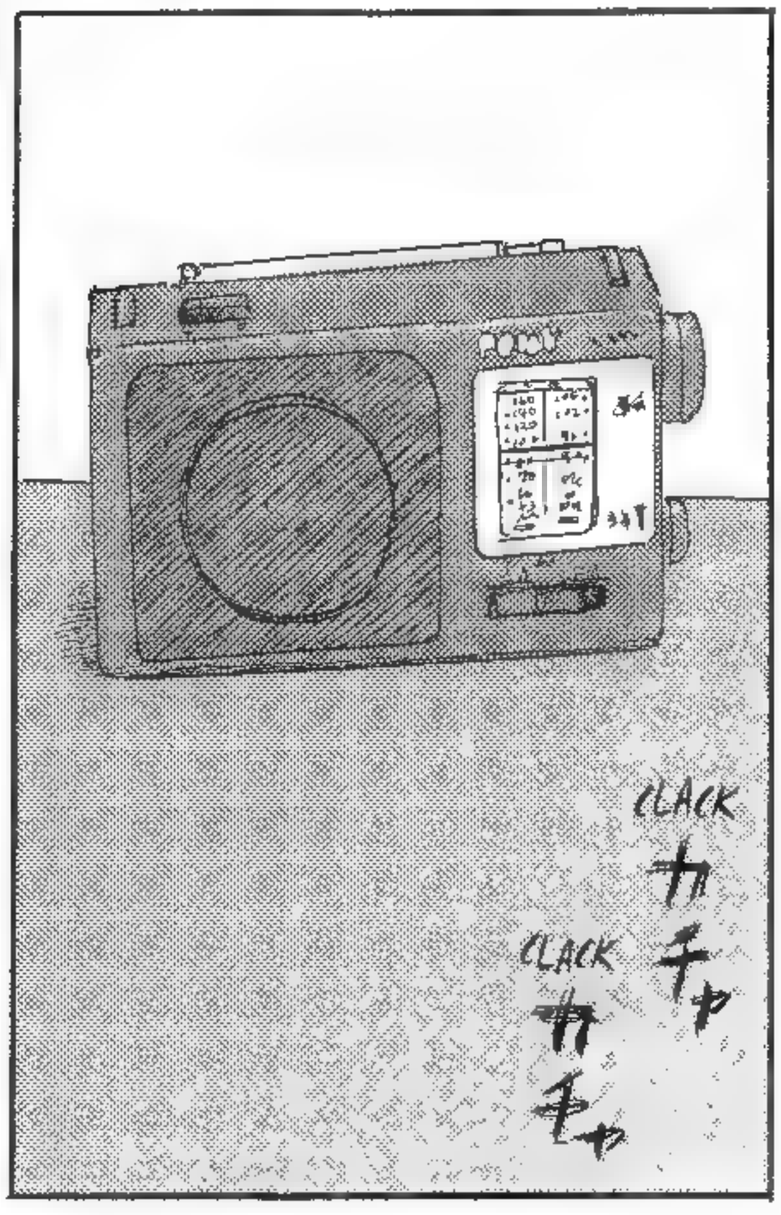
PLEASE, SIT DOWN.

TP
TP
TP

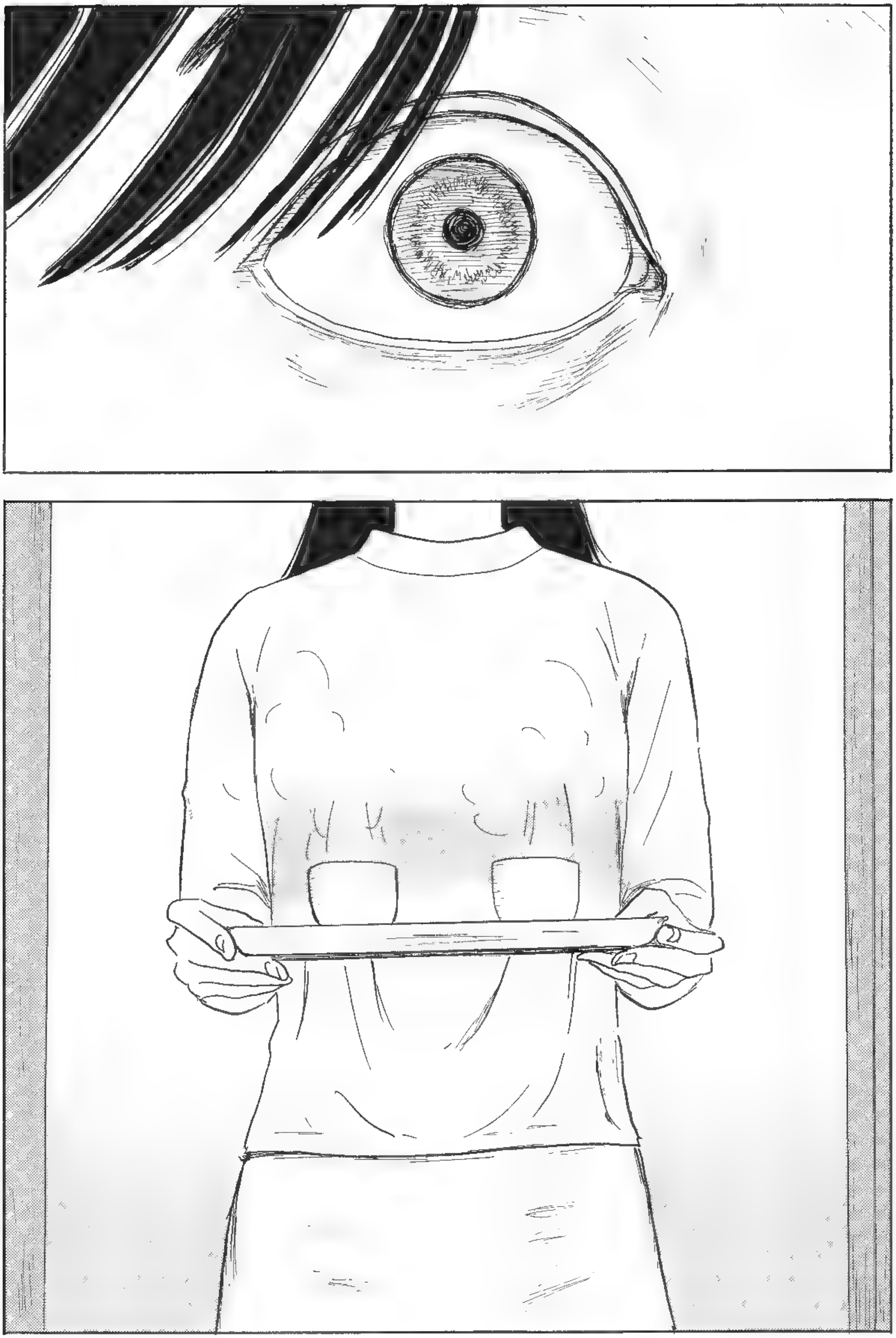


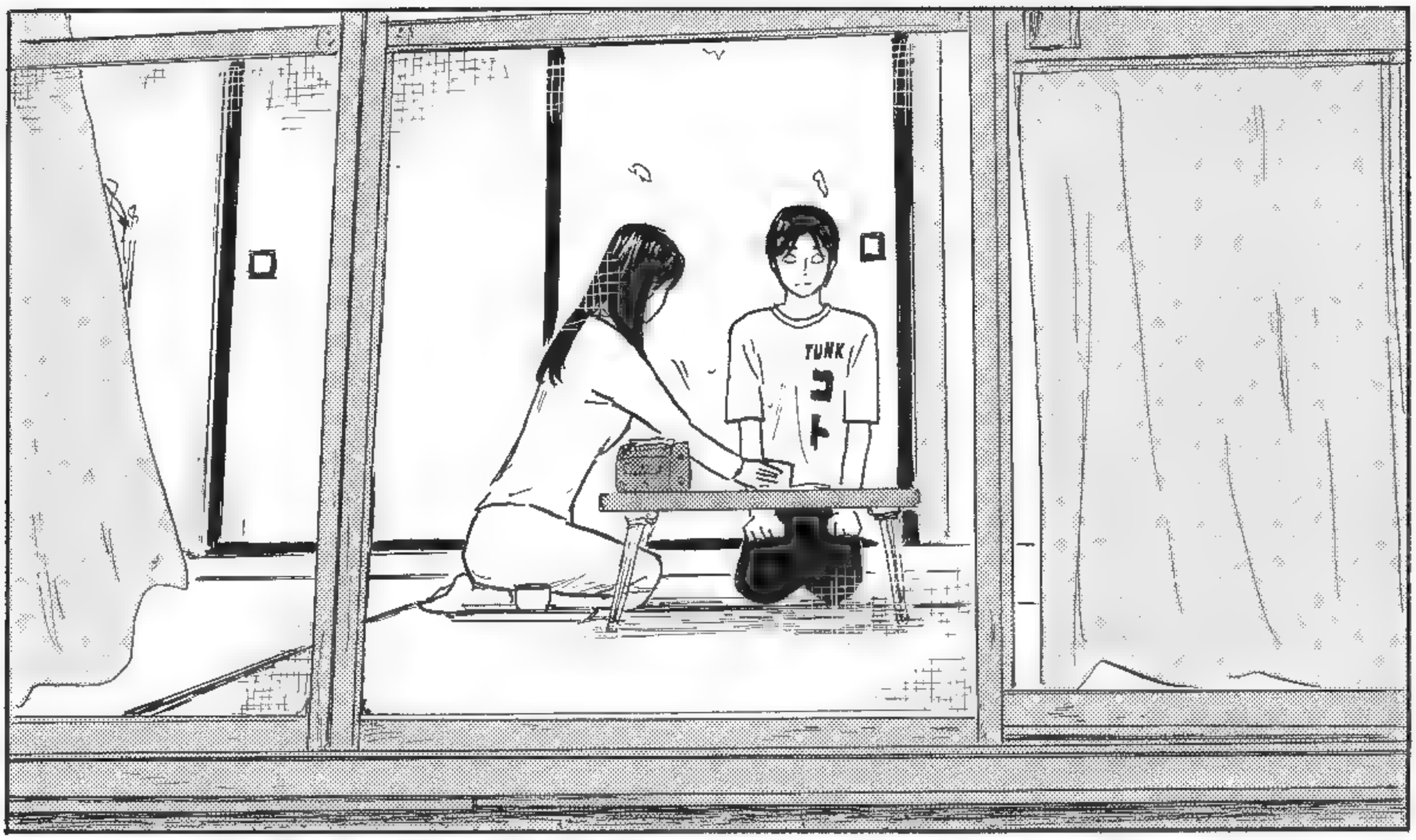





CLACK
CLACK

WELCOME HOME, SEI.




TUNK

PLEASE.

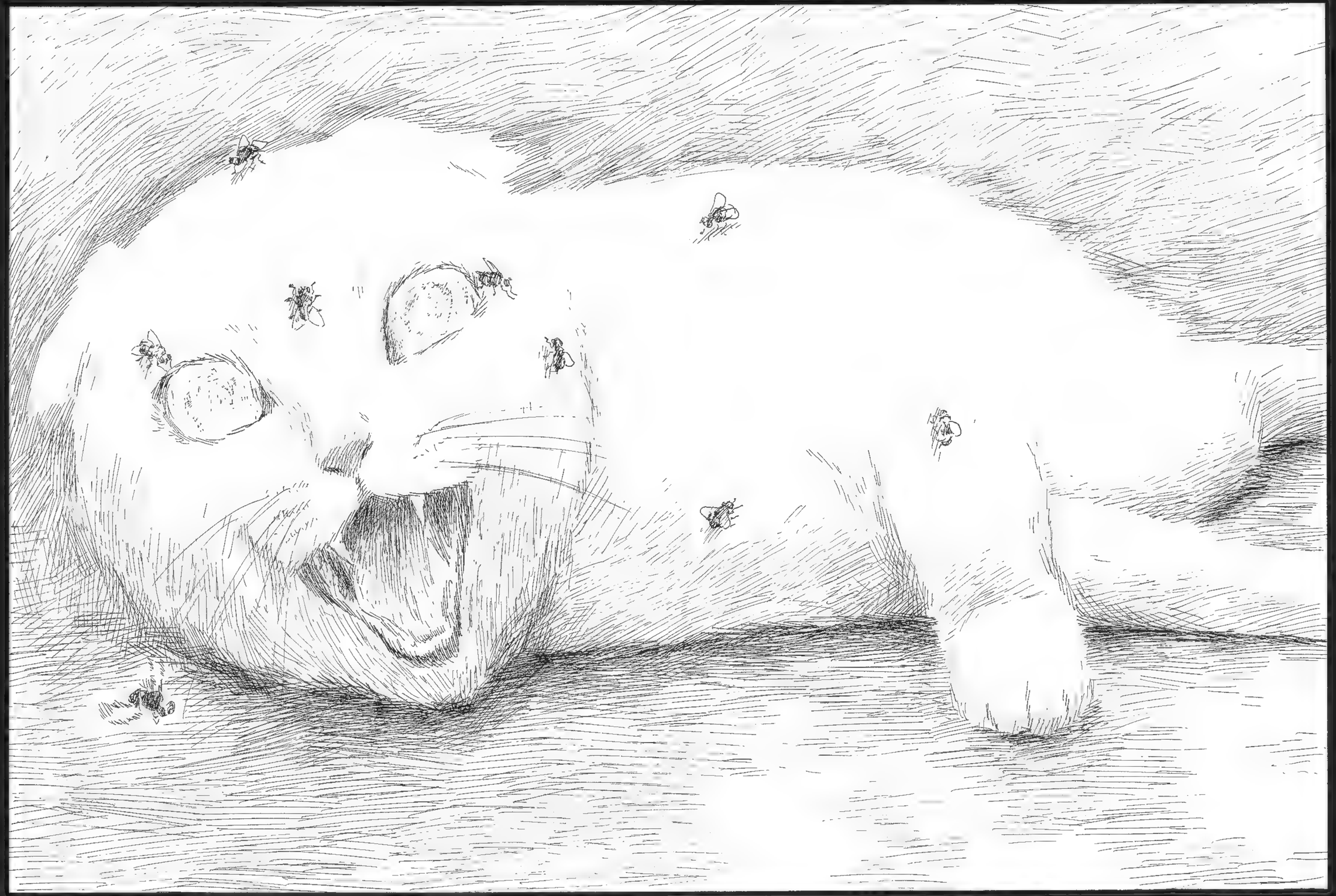
OH.

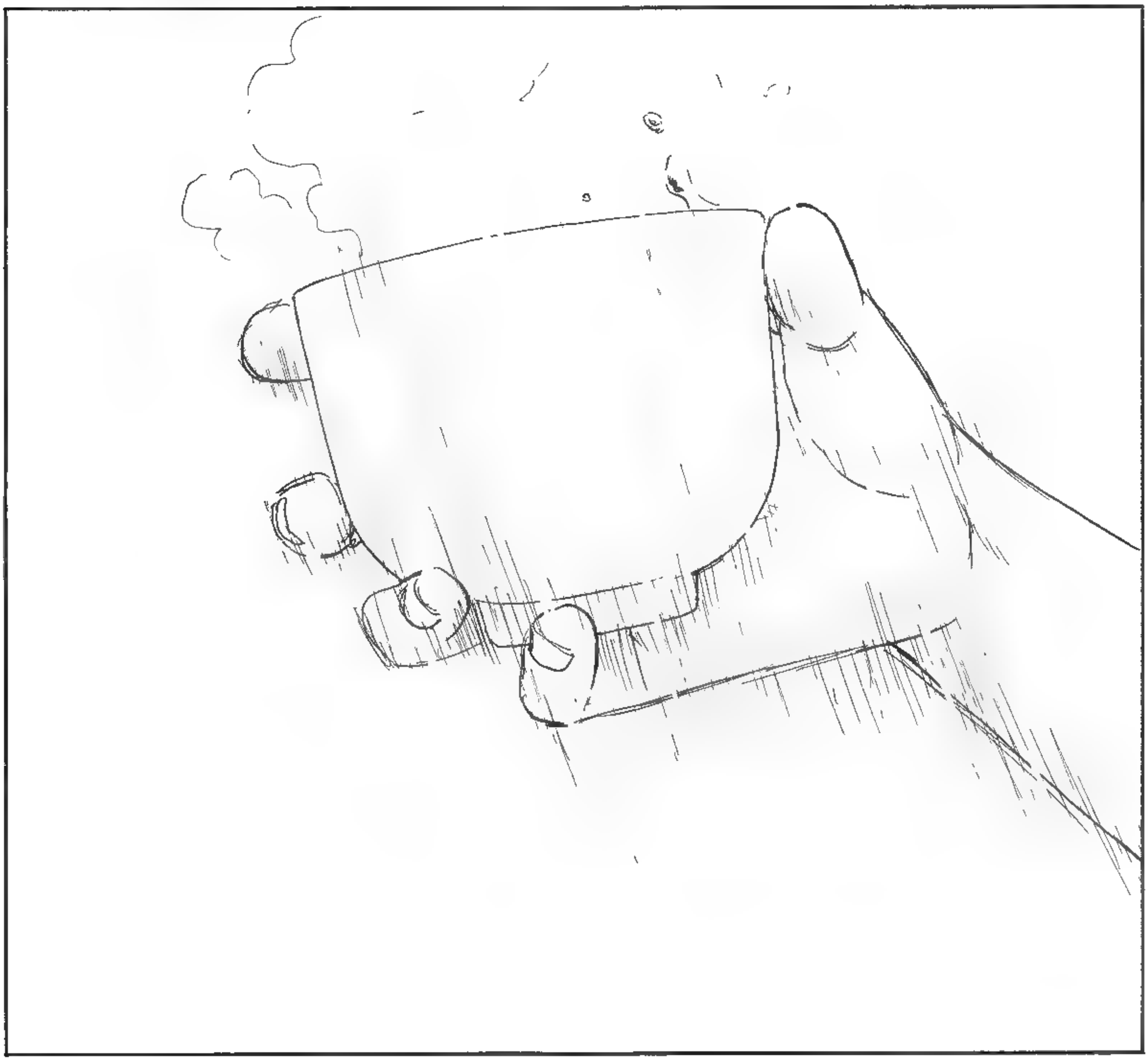
WAIT...

OHH...

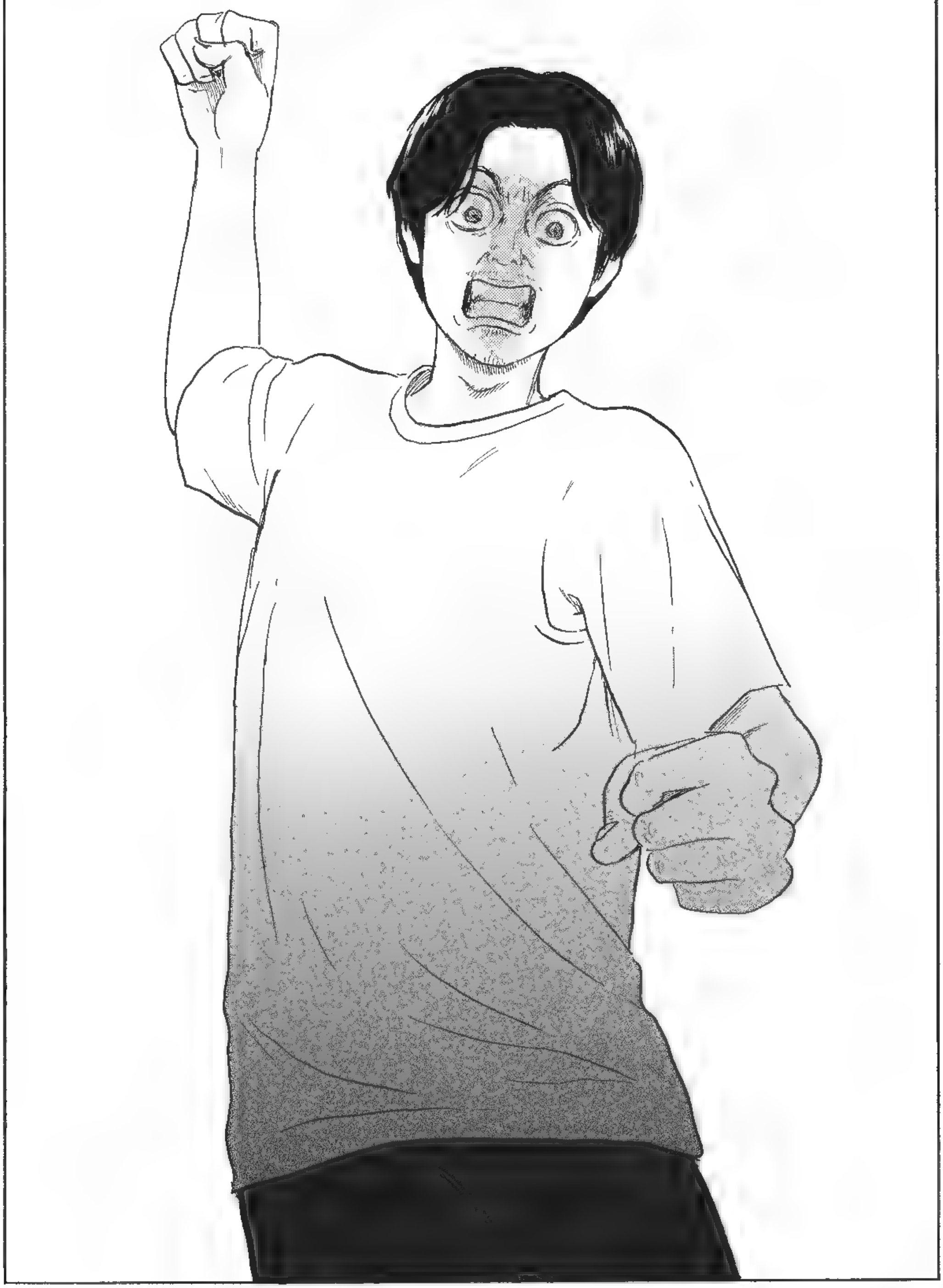
SEIICHI...?
YOU'RE...

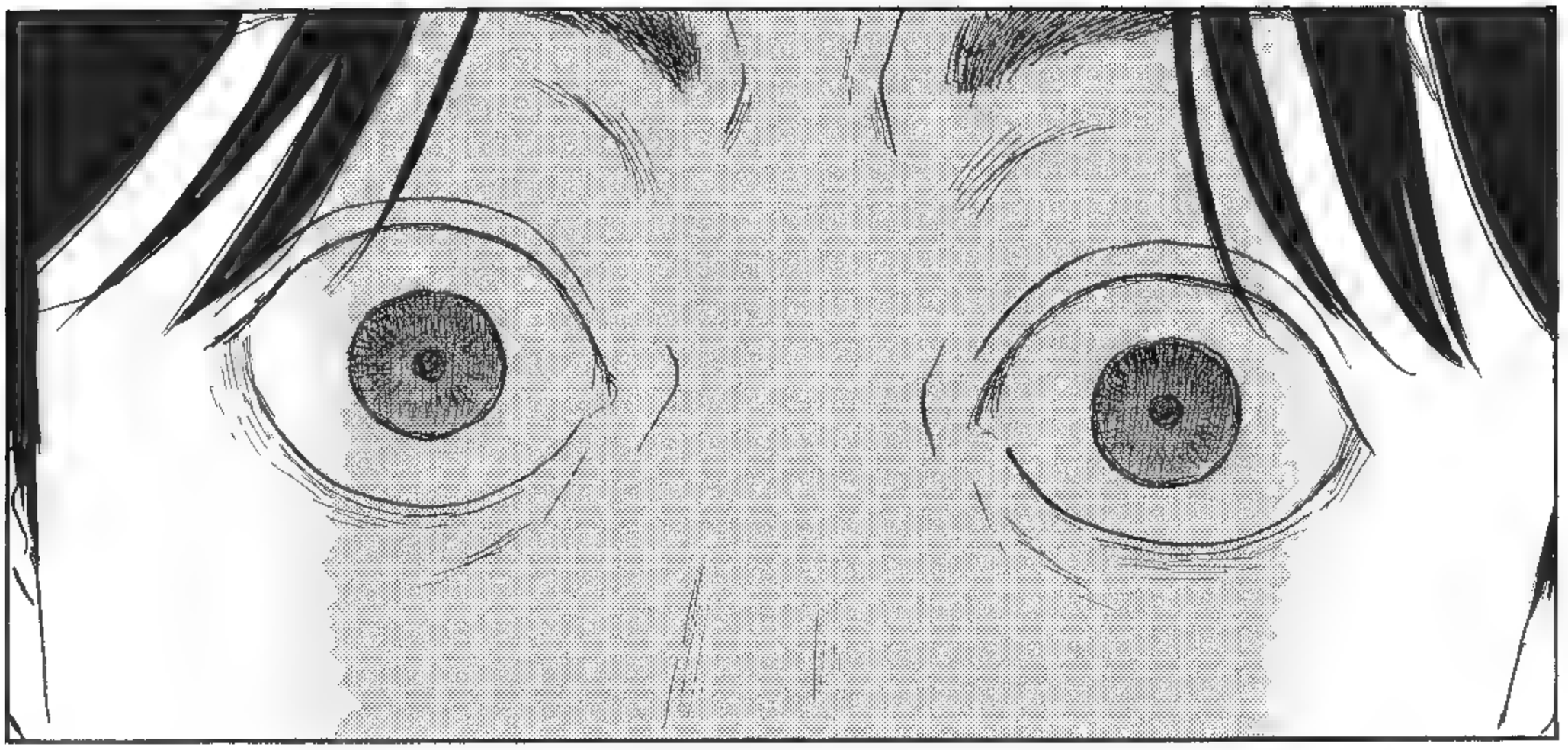
IT'S BEEN SO LONG.

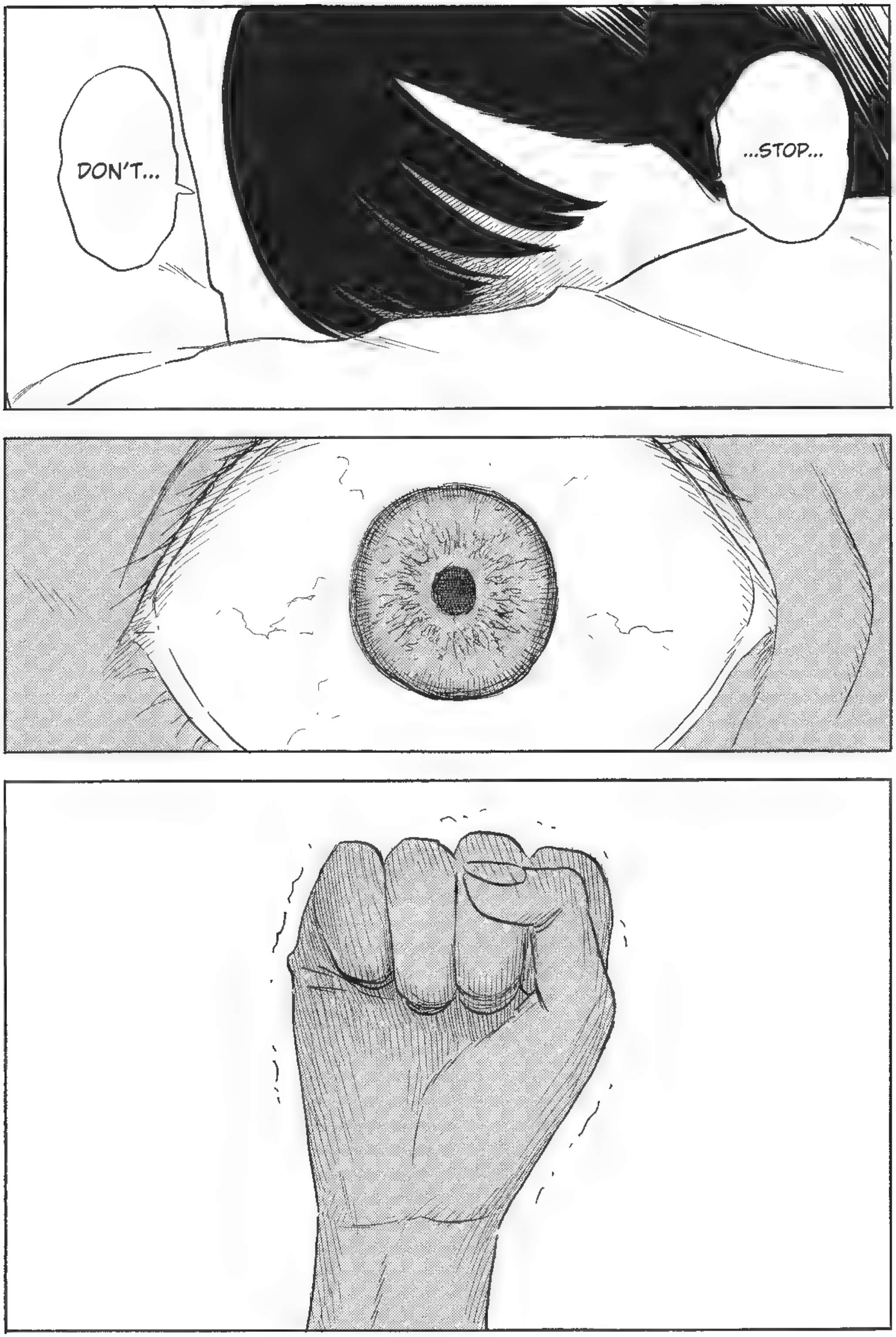




AH!






DON'T...
...STOP...

WH...
...
DO...
I...
WHY...

SUFFERING LIKE THIS ...?
HAVE TO... KEEP ON...

I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY...

I'M... SORRY...

SORRY...

SORRY...

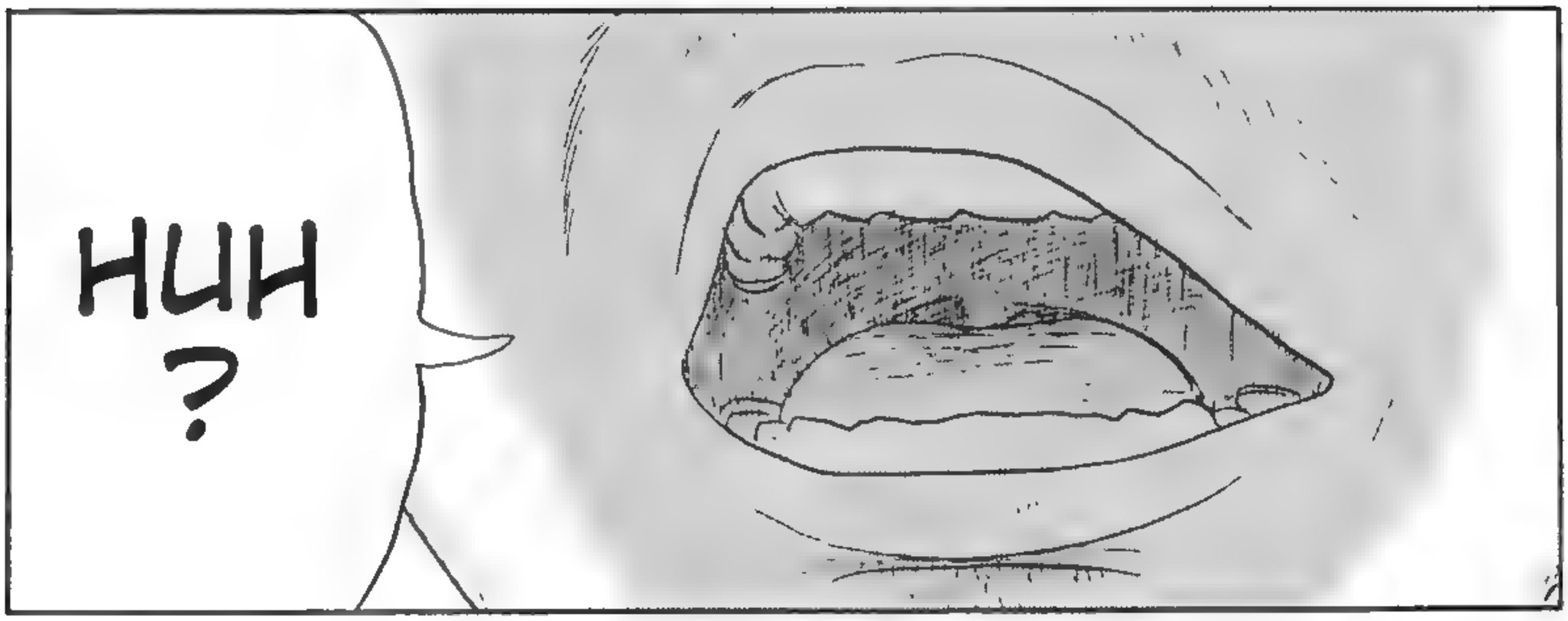
I'M REALLY...

NGGH...

KILL ME...

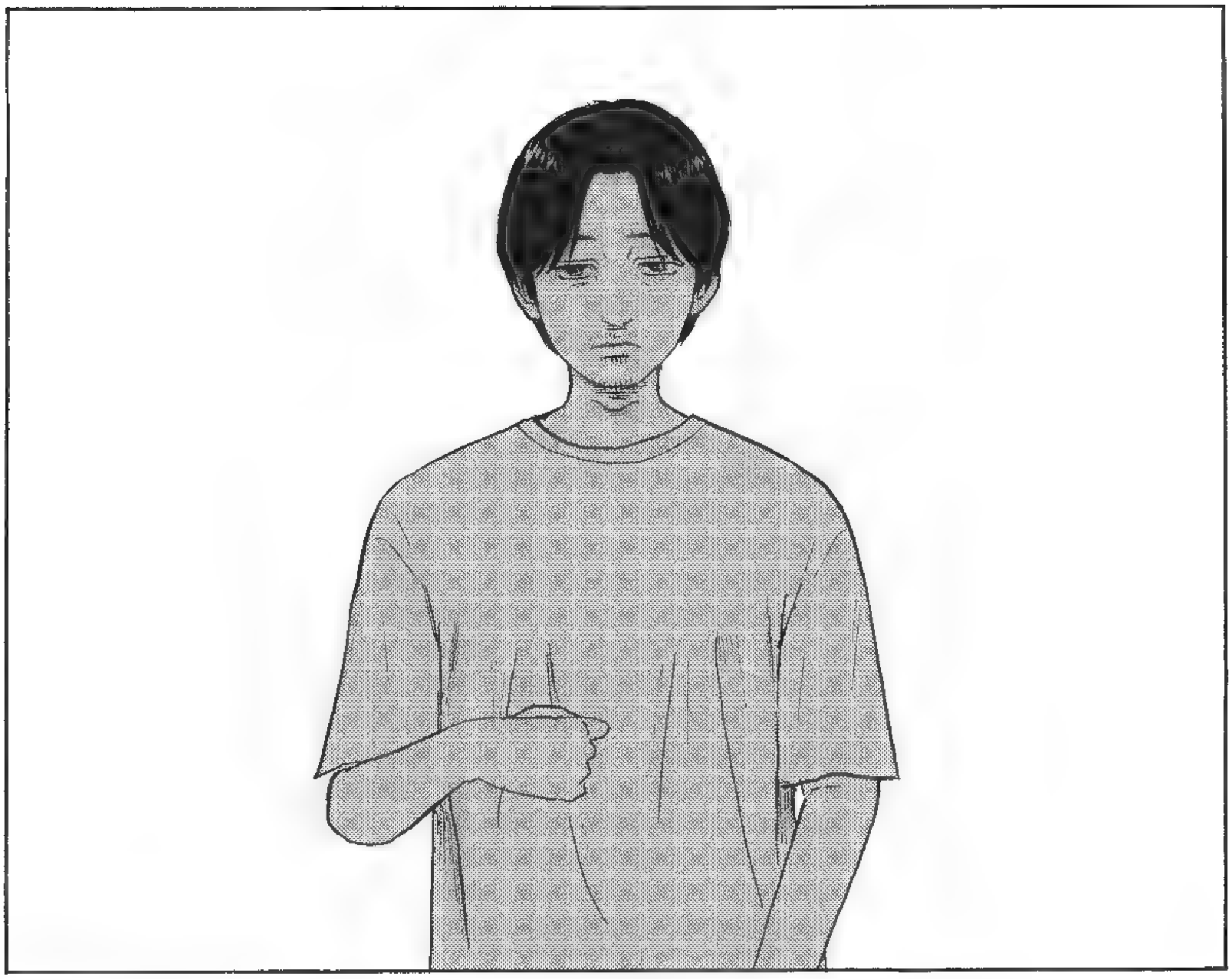
KILL ME...

JUST...


HUH
?

DO IT YOUR-SELF !!
IF YOU WANNA DIE,

JOLT
ビク



CREE
!#"

...AND I WON'T COME BACK HERE AGAIN.

...I'LL PAY THE MONEY...

LIKE I SAID.

YOU'LL NEVER

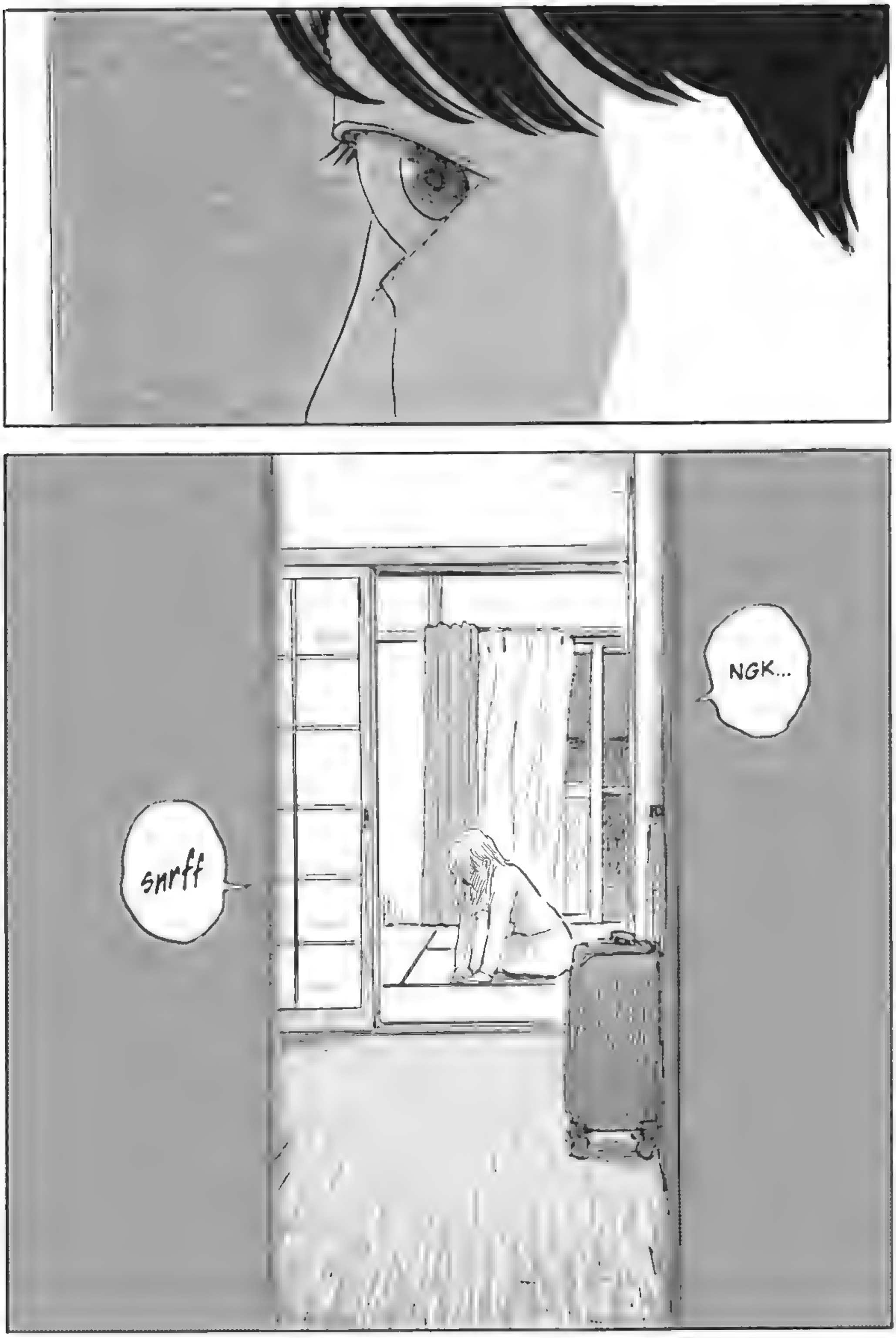
SEE ME AGAIN.

NM...

MMLIGH

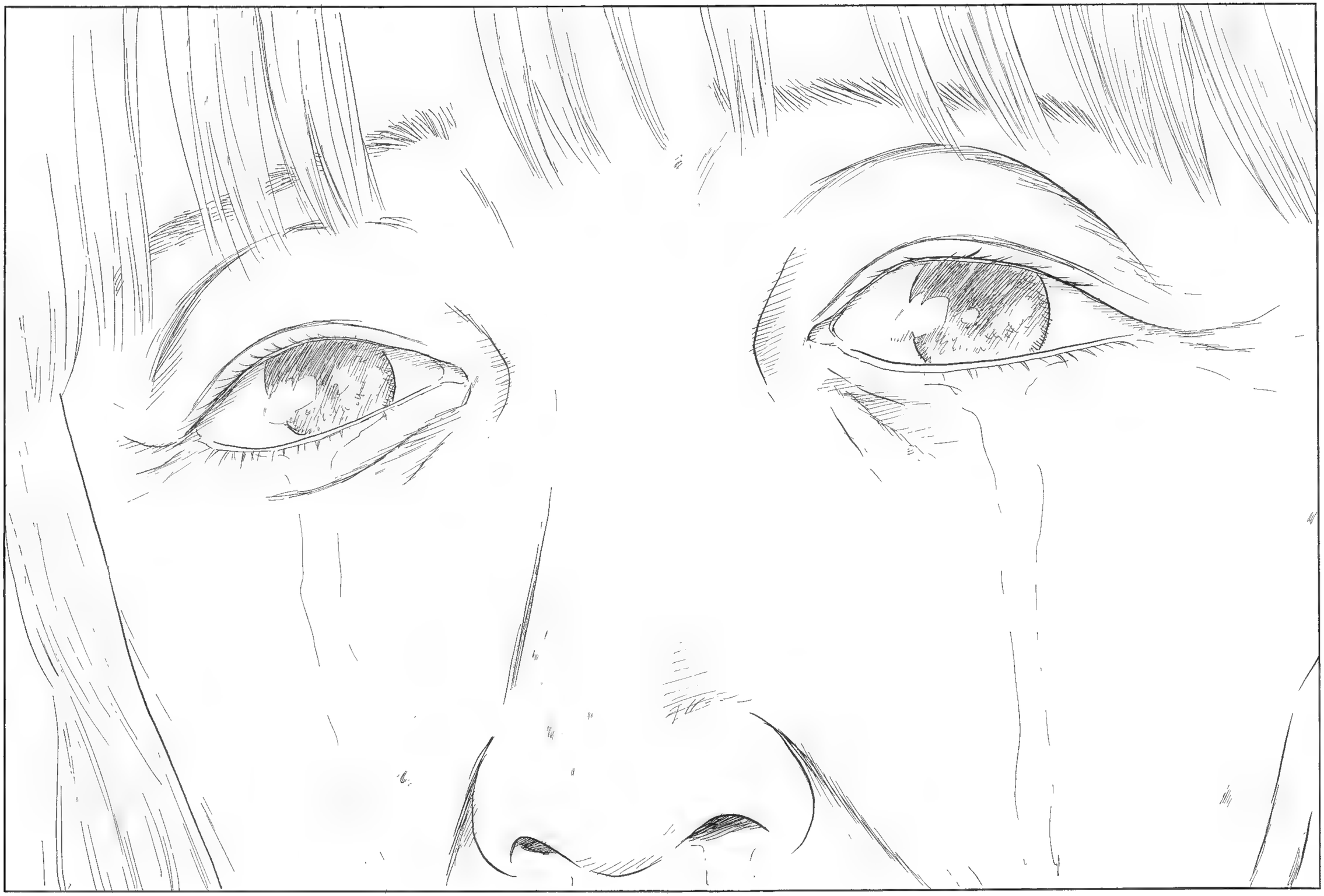
...sniffle

ZHP


NGK...
snrff

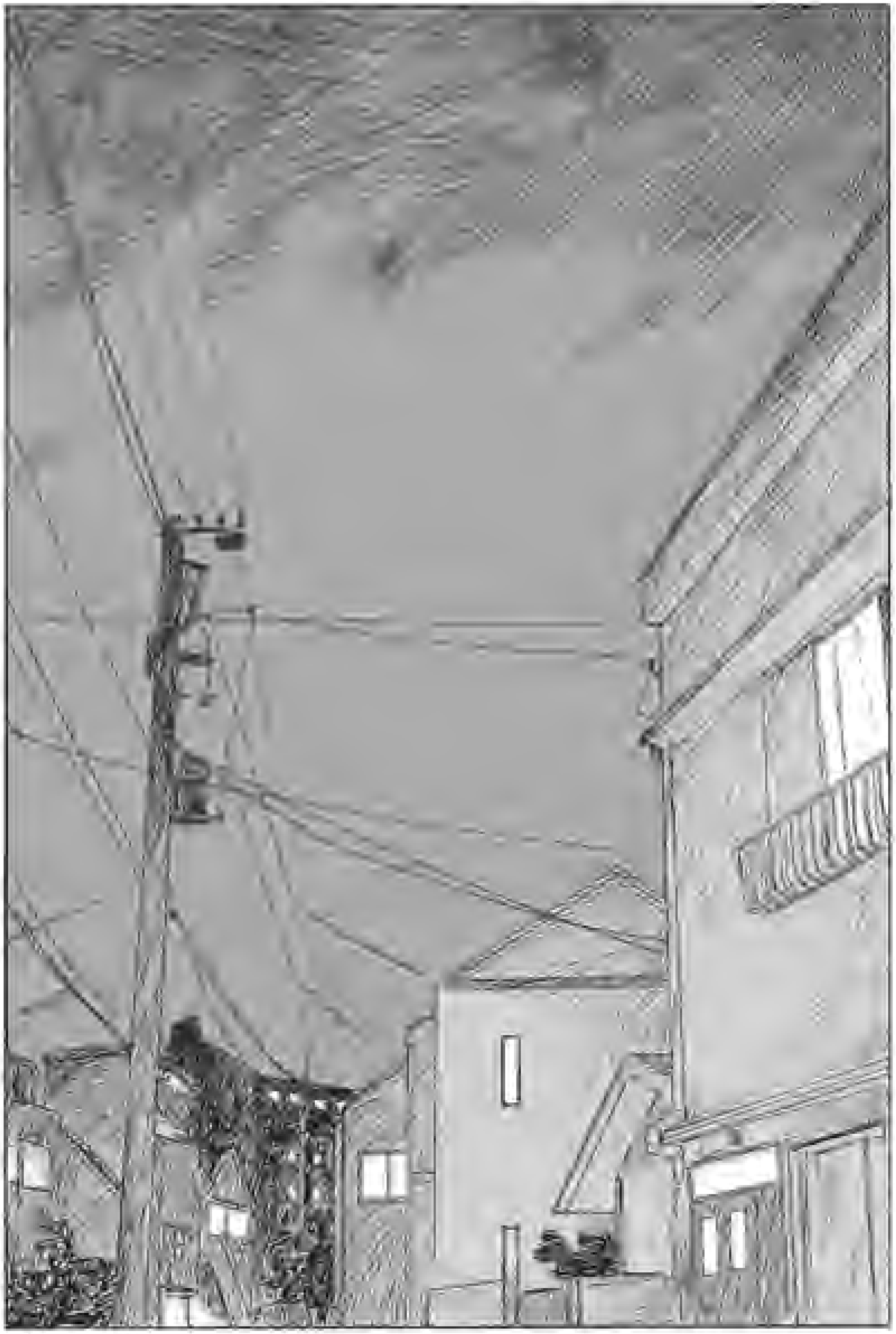
MMFF
ииН...

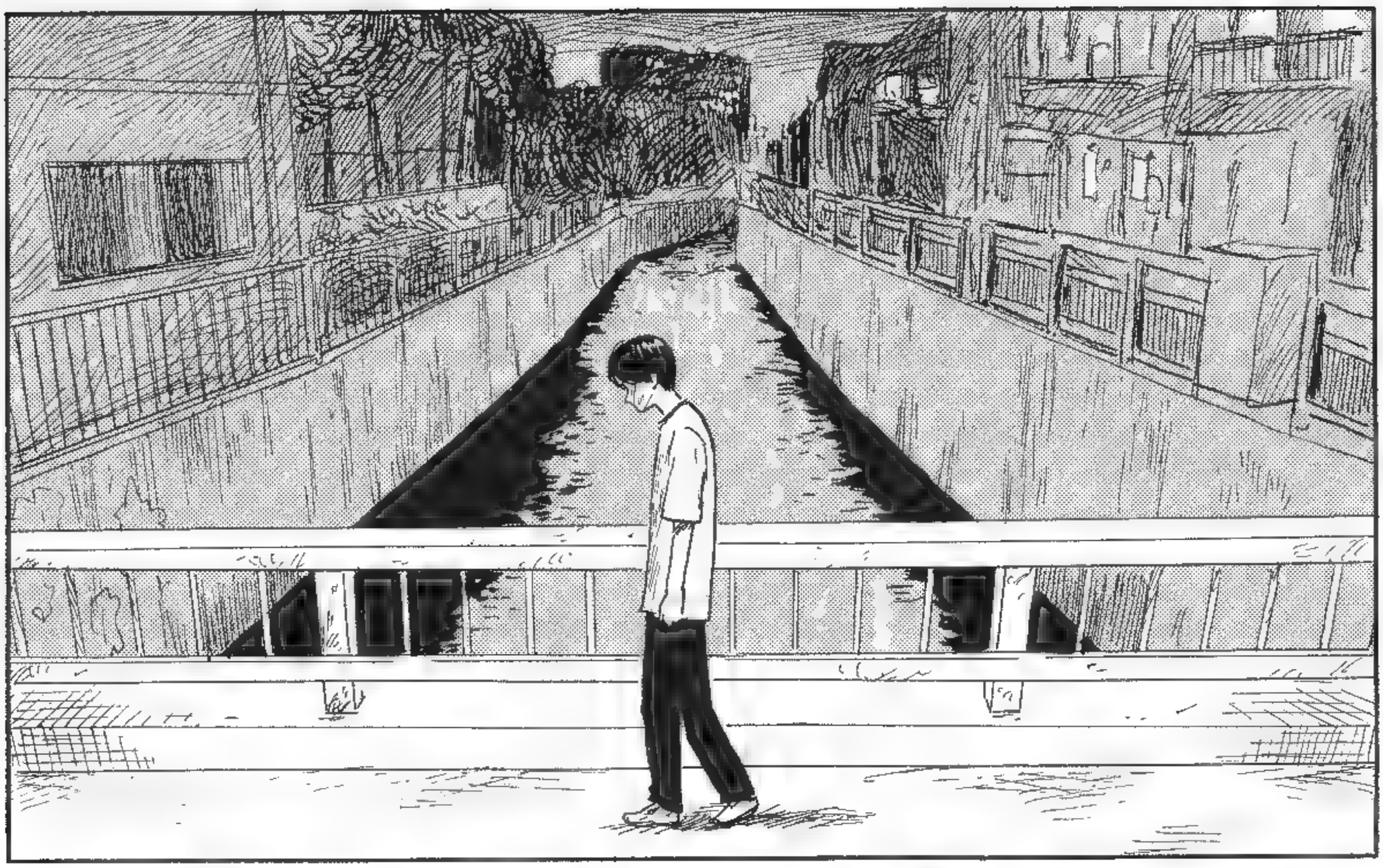
snf

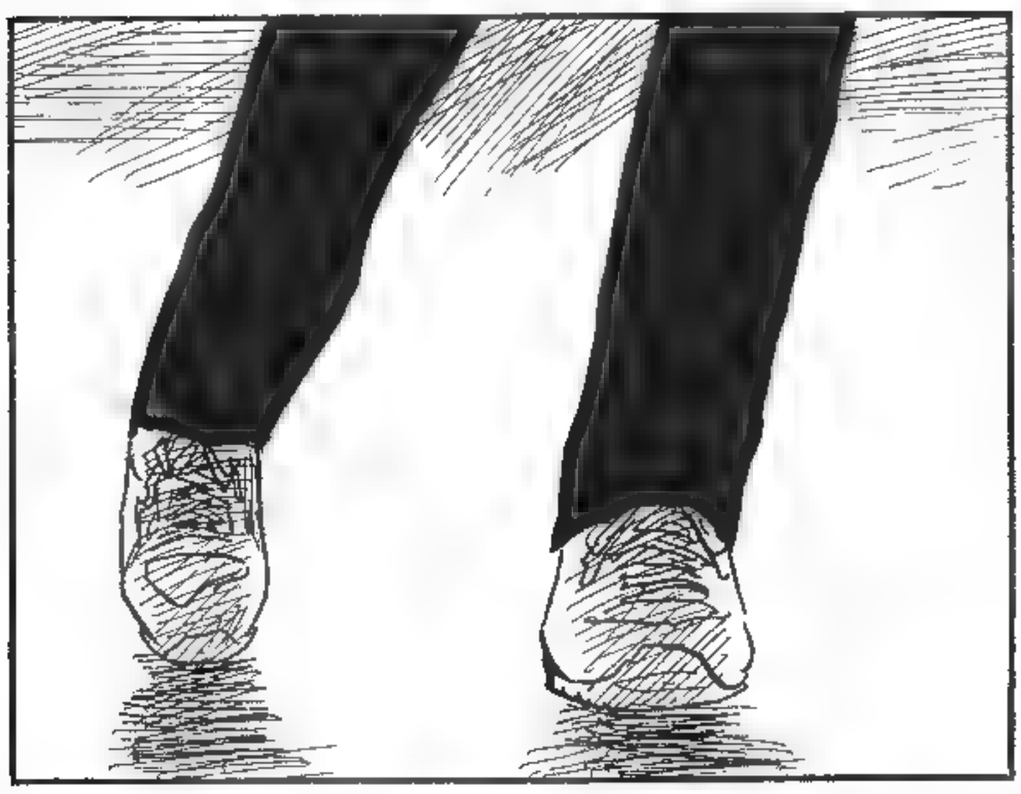


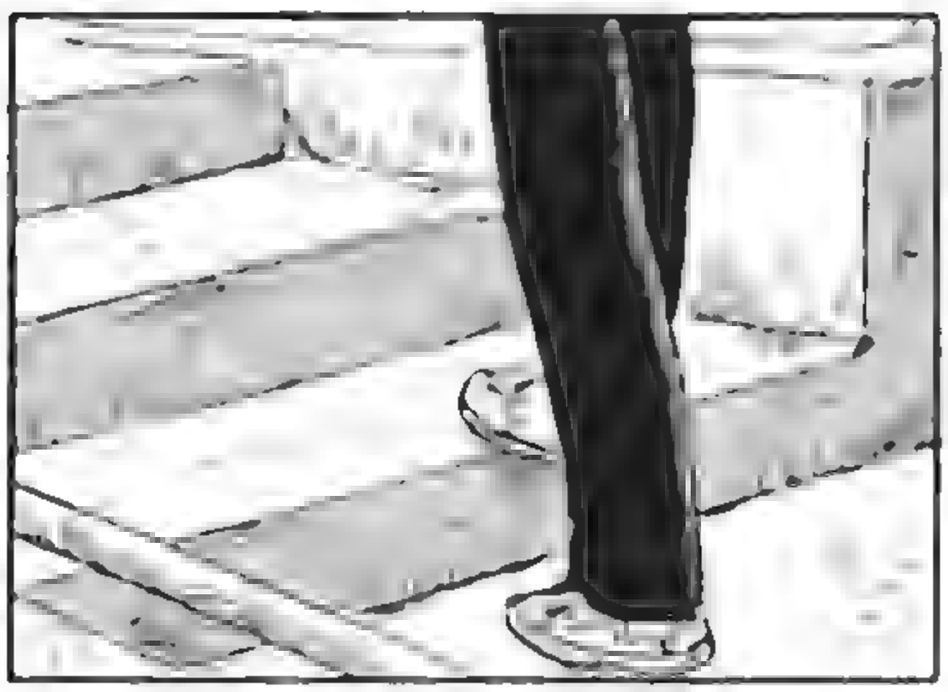
SLAM

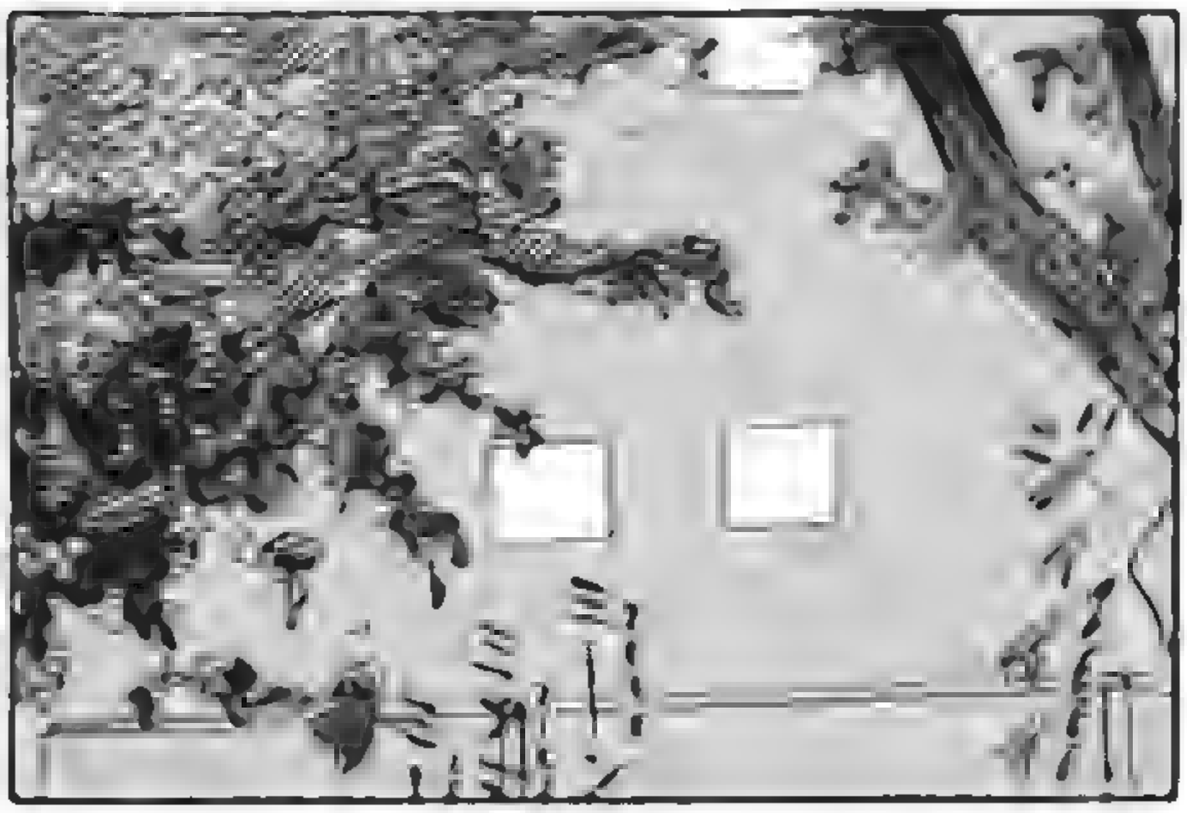
Blood on the Tracks











WHAT'S WRONG,
SEI?

I WISH I HADN'T GONE.

I WISH I HADN'T SEEN HER.

I COULD'VE JUST DIED, AND THAT WOULD'VE BEEN IT.

ALL THIS TIME, I KEPT THE LID CLOSED AND TRIED NOT TO LOOK.

AT HER.

I WENT AND OPENED THE LID.

BUT NO,

HAVE I NOT ACTUALLY CHANGED AT ALL ...?

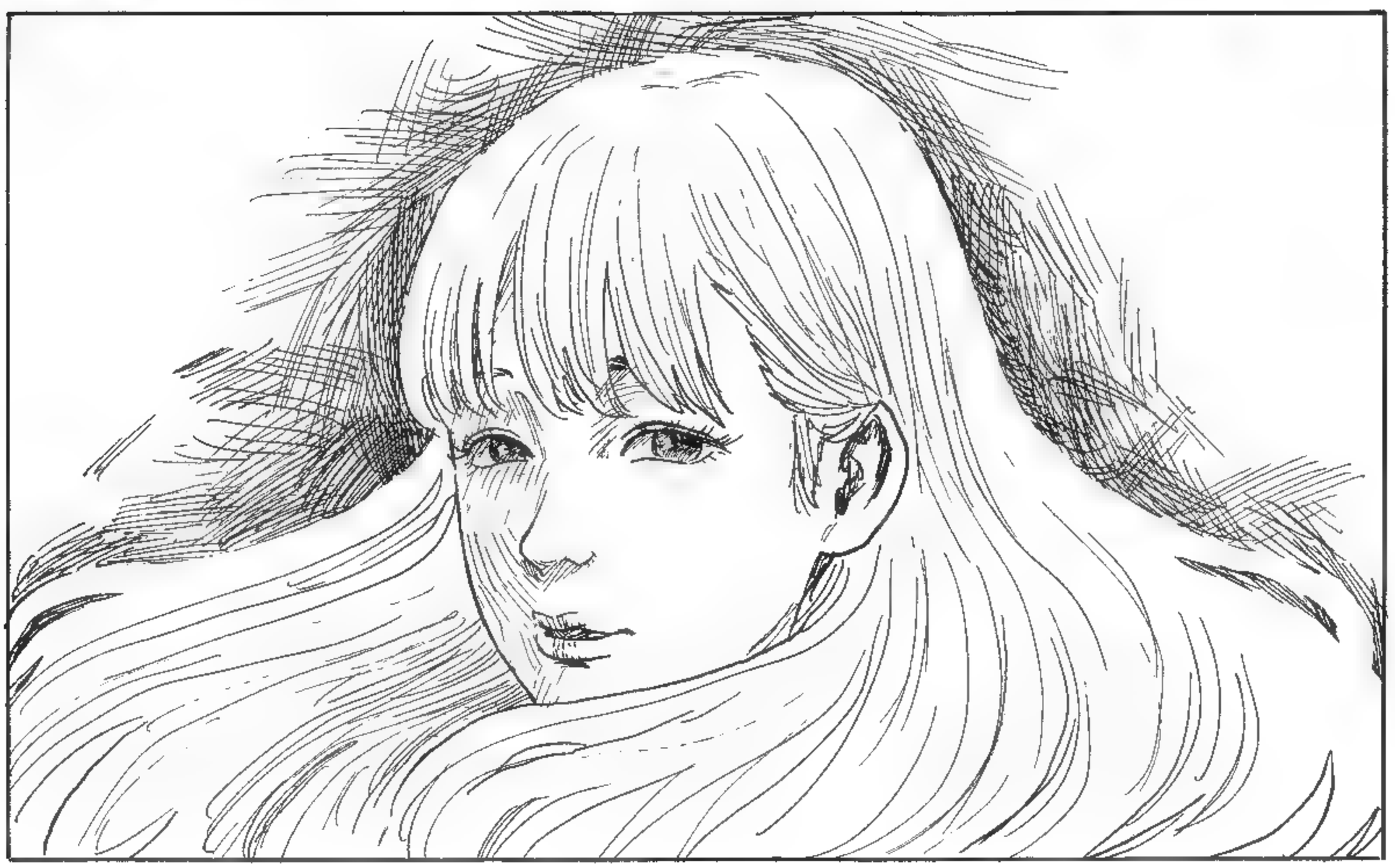
AT THE END OF THE DAY,

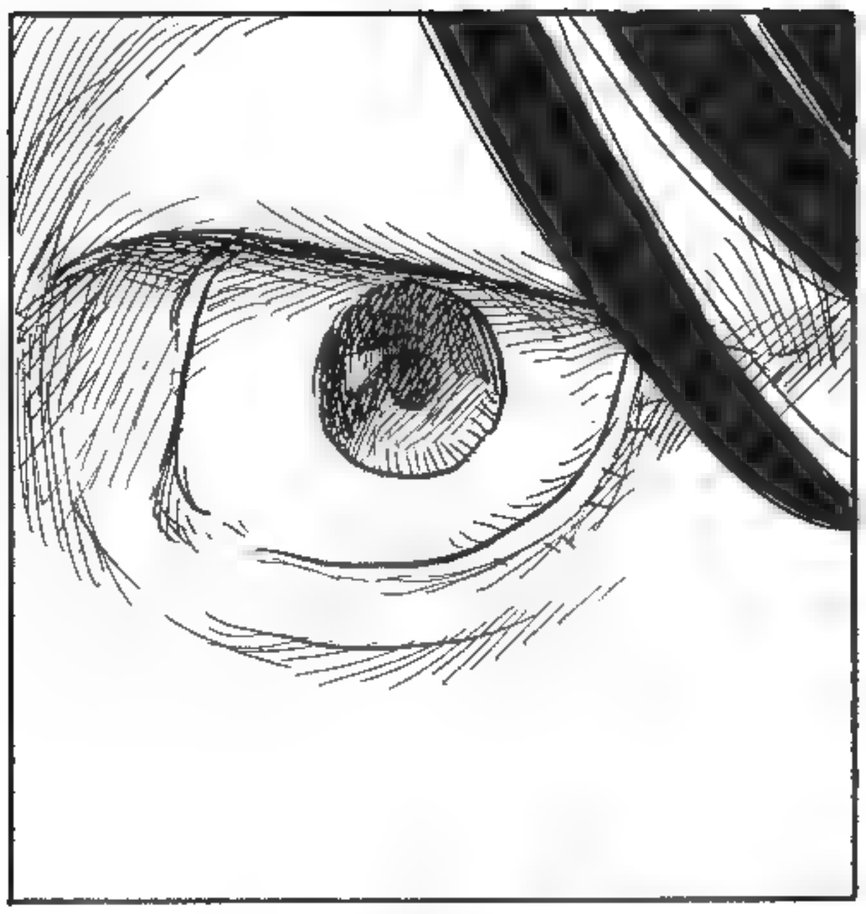
NOPE. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.

ALLLL THIS TIME.

YOU'RE NOT LOOKING AT AUNT SEIKO, BUT YOU HAVE BEEN, RIGHT?

ALLLL THIS TIME, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE





WHO'S THAT?
AH HA HA HA. AH HA HA.

HOW YOU SEE AUNT SEIKO ?
IS THAT

GIMME A BREAK.

AH HA HA HA.

COME ON.

THAT'S HOW YOU SEE YOUR MOMMY?

YOU'VE LIVED YOUR WHOLE LIFE BLAMING EVERYTHING ON ME. ALL THIS TIME.

YOU MAKE ME INTO A MONSTER.

THAT YOU CAN'T HELP IT IF YOU'RE HALF DEAD, MOMMY DID THAT TO YOU.

YOU TELL YOURSELF THAT MOMMY MADE YOU CRAZY.

ALL THIS TIME, YOU'VE JUST BEEN CLINGING TO YOUR MOMMY LIKE A LITTLE BABY.

AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD TO BE HOLDING ONTO THAT?

IT'S YOURS !!

YOU KNOW WHOSE FAULT IT IS YOU ENDED UP LIKE THAT?

SHUT UP!!

DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S CRAZY?

OH, YOU DON'T LIKE IT, SO YOU'RE GOING TO GET VIOLENT?

JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID!

I'M NOT A MURDERER.

YOU'RE THE ONLY MURDERER HERE.

SHUT UP!!

STOP IT!!

SHUT UP, ALREADY !!

HFF...

HFF...

GET ME OUTTA HERE.

WHAT'S HE SCREAMING ABOUT? FREAKY.

THE HELL ?

I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE.

I CAN'T...

I'M SICK TO DEATH OF TALKING TO YOU

INSIDE MY HEAD.

SEI.

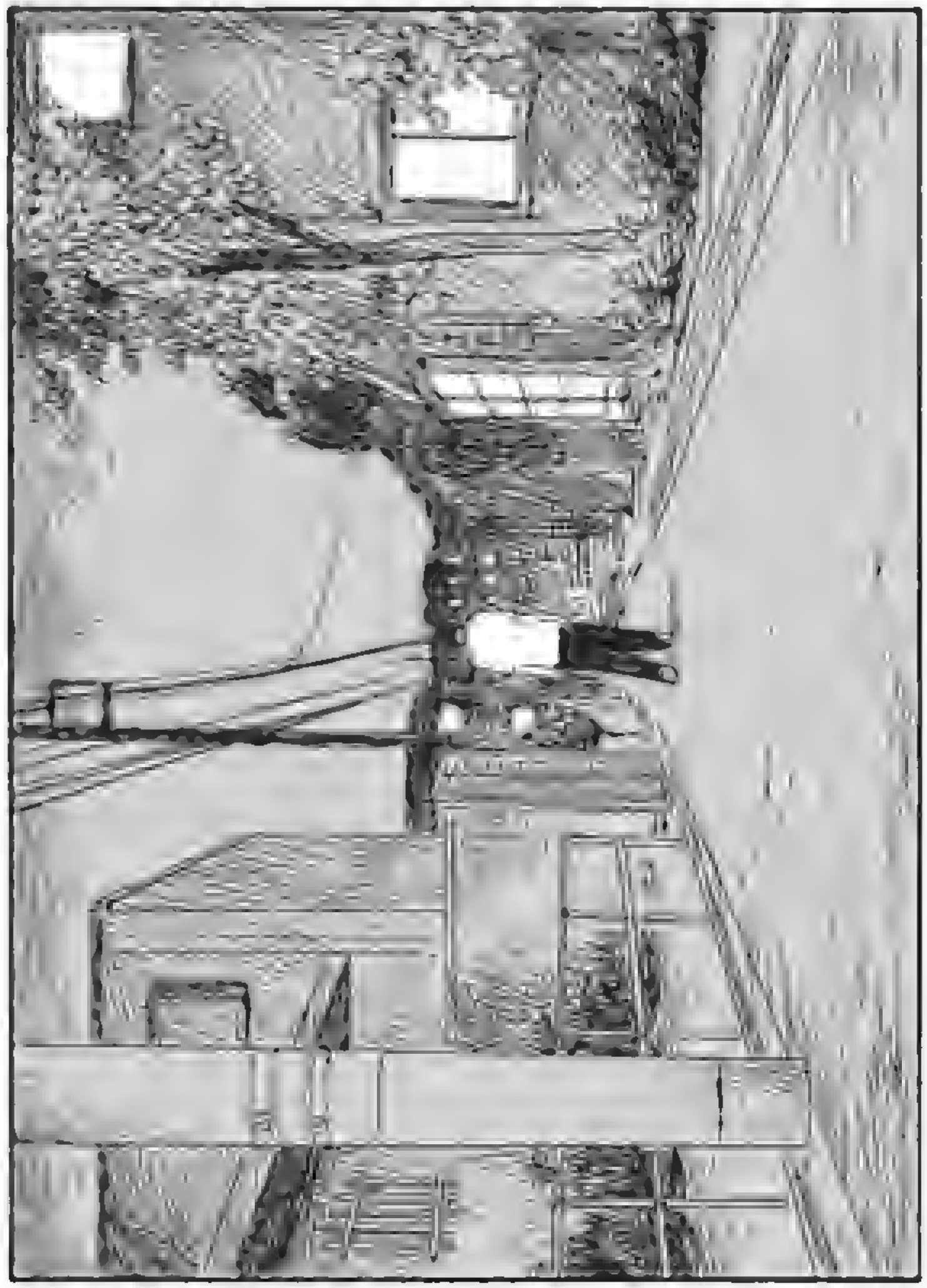
YOU'RE GONNA GO SEE AUNT SEIKO.

YOU'RE GONNA GO SEE HER AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?

I BET.

SOON,

847



Blood on the Tracks

No matter how tightly I close the lid, it leaks out. I keep a lid on it *knowing* it will leak out. In fact, I look forward to it leaking out. When I feel its presence, I suffer, and when I realize I'm suffering, I feel a pleasure like that of sinking into addiction. I'm unable to have sex, and barely even able to masturbate. I always end up thinking of it, I always hear a voice inside reminding me I'm being watched, so I can only masturbate when I'm immersed in the waters of guilt. I always hear the voice in my head, but I don't know whose it is. Is it my mother's? Whoever's it is, this unknown voice tells me, "You mustn't be happy," "You can't run away," "You have to stay there forever." By now I know that I'm the one who's torturing myself, and that's what gets me off. No one else can come into it.

Whenever I see a woman on the street, rage wells up inside me. Every woman reminds me of my mother. Why is she smiling? What's she doing outside? Why is she running away? Why is she happy? You're the one who told me to, you're the one who did it! You made a killer of me! So says the childhood me, as I just sit there listening. All I can do is listen. I myself can't speak a word.

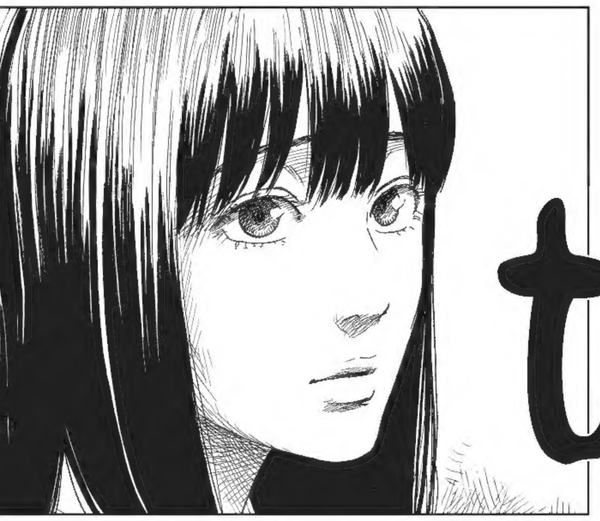
I dream about that house. That house, in that town full of rust. I return alone to that house, the wallpaper is peeling, roaches and mouse droppings, corpses of tiny flies strewn everywhere, a sour, rotten odor permeates everything, picture books I read as a child fill the closet, the sight of them brings back

memories, books my mother read to me over and over, the sound of her voice, I want to rip those books to pieces, but I can't because I have no hands, I want to vomit, but I can't because I have no mouth.

The more of this comic I draw, the more I suffer. I wonder why it's so bad... When I lift the lid and look inside, I automatically hear the voice inside me. It comes from within me. Even though everything within me might be a lie. The reason I stutter is that I'm always listening to that voice. I draw this comic out of shallow, foolish malice, a desire to pawn off my suffering on every other human being like a curse. It was supposed to be my revenge on my mother.

But the farther I go, the harder it gets to distinguish my mother's voice from my own. The border grows hazy. "There was no one there all along!" I want to scream. What a joke. Revenge for what? I'm the one who had to cook up a plausible story of murder to justify it. And I'm the one making money from it. Hell, I even got married and had kids. By all rights I should be living like Seiichi. I was supposed to stay there forever, but I violated that order. I'm the one who should be the target of revenge!

That inner voice starts up again, automatically. I wonder why it keeps on talking and never stops. It was my mother who implanted the voice in me. Who implanted it in my mother? Was it her mother? Or was it me? Did my mother hear this voice inside her, too?



to her

SEI!

!!LET'S GO!

He calls me

Against all odds, Seiichi and his mommy reunite. Can they create a new track for themselves?!

Volume 15 Coming November 2023!!

Is what you did with me...

meaningless to you now?

Not doing it, wanting to do it...
The dam of adolescence is about to *burst!*

Welcome Back, Alice Vol. 5

On sale Fall 2023.

Blood on the Tracks 14

A Vertical Comics Edition

Translation: Daniel Komen
Editor: Daniel Joseph
Production: Risa Cho
Pei Ann Yeap
Evan Hayden

CHI NO WADACHI 14
by Shuzo OSHIMI

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AGES 16+

Seiichi is back home for the first time in ages to inter his father's remains in the family grave. After that, he'll be finished, nothing left to hold him in this world...until he happens to bump into Fukiishi, resurrecting all the feelings he had buried along with his past—

Will Seiichi finally find peace in death? Or will the specters of the past keep him here against his will...?